THURSDAY
December 14, 2023

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TWO BJP CHIEF MINISTERS

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Climate change and the health issues to come

There is need to engage with both agendas

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NEW CHALLENGE

India-England one-off Test begins today

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COP-28 calls for 'transition away' from fossil fuels

Negotiators adopt resolution titled Dubai Consensus; the text reflects a compromise between developed and developing countries on emissions

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Nations took a small but decisive step towards ridding the world of fossil fuels, after negotiators in Dubai on Wednesday adopted a resolution, called the Dubai Consensus.

The standout clause in the 21-page text is the one that "calls on Parties [to be] ...Transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science". However, this language of "transitioning" has been diluted from earlier drafts that had called for an actual "phase-out" of all fossil fuels.

Creating a path to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 is humanity's best shot at keeping global temperatures from rising beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, according to scientific assessments by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This implies cutting emissions to 43% of 2019 levels by 2030 and 60% by 2035, an onerous ask given that just seven years remain for the first target, while emissions keep rising, year on year.

The consensus text reflects a compromise between developed and developing countries on what the world should do to stem greenhouse gas emissions while also ensuring that countries contribute proportionally, on the basis of their historic responsibility for the climate crisis. These climate talks are annual affairs but move forward incrementally because the UN rules say an agreement can result only if all 198 signatories agree on every line in the text.

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Eye on emissions

Global Stocktake was the first COP where countries were expected to account for actions undertaken to fulfil obligations under the Paris Agreement — of keeping emissions on track to below 2°C and endeavour to 1.5°C

- The stocktake found that steps taken by Parties were inadequate and even in the most optimistic case, would see a 5% reduction in emissions by 2030 (over 2019 levels) when it should have been 43%
- Greenhouse gas emissions have to be reduced sharply and this will require tackling the main culprit — fossil fuels
- Countries must implement systems to adapt to present and future effects of climate change by 2030

India votes in favour of immediate ceasefire in Gaza by Israel

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday voted in favour of a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution that called on Israel for an immediate ceasefire, the protection of civilians in accordance with international law and the release of all hostages. India was among 153 countries that made up a massive 4/5th majority in the Assembly who voted in favour of the resolution, where only 10 countries, including the U.S. and Israel, voted against the resolution, and 23 abstained.

Despite being "unsatisfied" with the resolution, Israel said it appreciated India's support and votes in favour of two proposed amendments.

Thanking India, the Palestinian Ambassador to India said that all countries must say "enough is enough". "153 countries have voted for ceasefire but the U.S. has opposed it and by doing so, the U.S. has once again proved that they are partner of Israel in this continuing massacre of Palestinian people," Ambassador of Palestine Adnan Abu Al Haija said.

CONTINUED ON
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Smoke canister strike by 2 visitors sets off chaos in LS

Sobhana K. Nair
Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI

In a major security breach on the 22nd anniversary of the attack on Parliament, two men jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the visitors' gallery on Wednesday afternoon, carrying canisters emitting yellow smoke. Amidst the chaos, parliamentarians apprehended the two intruders, beating them up before handing them over to the security staff.

Delhi police sources said that six people involved in the incident have been identified, and five detained, including two who set off canisters and shouted slogans outside Parliament, and a Gurugram resident in whose home they had all stayed on Tuesday night. A senior Delhi police officer said that they have not found any terror angle to the incident, calling it a political protest though no links to any political party have been found as yet. Investigations are still underway.

The Opposition questioned the security lapse, alleging that it had taken some time for the security apparatus to kick in, leaving the MPs to deal with the intruders on their own. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla later clarified that the smoke was not poisonous; he promised a high-level enquiry into the breach and a security review of the new building. He also suspended the entry of visitors into Parliament as an immediate step. No MP or security staff was injured in the incident.

The two men who jumped into the Lok Sabha were identified as Lucknow resident Sagar Sharma, 28, and Mysuru resident D. Manoranjan. They entered the Parliament on visitor's passes.

Major breach: A video grab shows the chaos after two visitors set off the canisters in the Parliament, on Wednesday. ANI

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NEARBY

KIA is the most profitable airport

BENGALURU
In 2022-23, the KIA was the most profitable airport among public-private partnership (PPP) airports earning a profit of ₹528 crore while other airports in the State incurred losses. » Page 2

Adaptive traffic signals to get power supply

BENGALURU
Months after the adaptive traffic signal control system that uses Japan's MODERATO technology was installed at several signals, the Directorate of Urban Land Transport has finally floated a short-term tender for providing electricity connectivity. » Page 3

NIA conducts raids in city in prison radicalisation case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday raided multiple locations across Bengaluru, in a case relating to alleged radicalisation of prisoners by a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist.

A total of six locations, including the houses of four accused, one of whom is still absconding, were extensively searched. The other locations that were searched were premises connected with two other suspects, said a press release from the investigative agency.

What was seized

The NIA teams seized a host of digital devices, various incriminating documents, and cash amounting ₹7.3 lakh during the raids, conducted on the premises of Mohammed Umar, Mohammed Faisal Rabbani, Tanveer Ahmed, and Mohammed Farooq, as well as absconder Junaid Ahmed, according to the press release.

Three other accused in the case are currently absconding.

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The hunger to play is the only drive that I have and one needs to keep pushing to do the right things: Vijay Shankar

The Tamil Nadu all-rounder, who had a prolific 2022-23 season with three back-to-back tons in the Ranji Trophy and also a good IPL, is astonishingly swift in treating triumph and disaster with equanimity

VIJAY SONEJI

Dhruva Prasad
RAJKOT

Vijay Shankar's recent uptick in form and fortune is testimony that it is never too late to stop believing.

At 32, after having played at the highest level with varying degrees of success, that includes being part of India's World Cup team in 2019, he was brimming with excitement on the eve of his 100th List A match – Tamil Nadu against Haryana in the semifinal of the Vijay Hazare Trophy in Rajkot on Wednesday.

"My 100th List A is a very special thing for me," Vijay said after scoring his first fifty of the tournament in a winning cause against Mumbai in the quarterfinals.

Great run

After failing to firmly establish himself in the Indian Premier League (IPL) since his debut in 2014, Vijay had a breakout IPL 2023 with Gujarat Titans, scoring 301 runs at a whopping strike rate of over 160.

That prolific season came on the back of three back-to-back hundreds in the 2022-23 Ranji Trophy, his most impressive First-Class campaign since 2014-15.

Despite these returns, Vijay was not part of any of the zonal squads on the domestic circuit. But he seems to have found a mantra to manage these setbacks and 'move on'.

"I had a lovely domestic season last year. I got three back-to-back hundreds. I had a good IPL. But I was not part of any Duleep Trophy or Deodhar Trophy. I was disappointed but the hunger to play cricket is the only drive that I have. You need to keep pushing yourself to do the right things. It might be boring at times, thinking that you are putting all the effort without seeing the results," Vijay told *The Hindu*.

For someone who trains hard, lays emphasis on work ethics, and has unlocked his fittest version with his most youthful days behind him, Vijay is astonishingly swift in treating triumph and disaster with equanimity.

"If it happens, feel happy about it, learn from it, but move on. If it doesn't happen, learn from it and move on," he says with disarming nonchalance.

But his ease of outlook has no bearing on his methods. On Tuesday, he was among a handful of Tamil Nadu cricketers who attended an optional training session and diligently went about extensive batting and bowling sessions. He also had lengthy discussions with National selectors S. Sharath and Subroto Banerjee.

Bowling regimen

"I have been working a lot on my bowling. There isn't a single session where I have not bowled in the nets. Every single day I have bowled at least four to five overs. I have made it a point because you never know when you will get to bowl.

"I believe in my work ethics and that has brought me here. Just because I am not bowling in matches, I cannot leave out my bowling," Vijay had said after bowling a tight spell in the quarterfinal with his medium pace.

Tamil Nadu has largely relied on spin across formats and Vijay said his role mainly revolved around giving control in the middle overs when the ball wasn't turning much initially.

Though Vijay seems to have made peace with whatever lies ahead, he says that belief goes a long way in turning a player's fortunes around.

Though his retention by Gujarat Titans ahead of the December 19 IPL auction was along expected lines, Vijay says that the franchise retaining him after the 2022 season gave him a lot of confidence.

"Despite the season I had in the previous year, they retained me and played me in the first game in 2023. That confidence from the team is very important. Even here [Vijay Hazare Trophy], a few of us didn't have a great first half, but the team [Tamil Nadu] still backed us and believed in our ability. That is why we were able to do well."

Thanking Gary Kirsten

Vijay also credited Gujarat Titans head coach Gary Kirsten's guidance for helping him after a poor IPL 2022, where he managed just 19 runs in four matches before being ruled out due to a shoulder injury, which needed surgery and kept him out of action for six months.

"I tweaked my bat lift and stance. It felt very good because I worked for it, and it happened. Gary Kirsten asked me to try something new. A week or 10 days before IPL [2023], he asked me to try different things and when I started hitting the ball really well, I started enjoying myself.

"I used to bat an hour and a half or even more in the nets. When you practice so much, in the match, that practice will sometimes take over everything," Vijay said, while not forgetting to mention his childhood coach S. Balaji, with whom he has worked since the age of 15.

Vijay acknowledges that Hardik Pandya's absence at Gujarat Titans will be a big shoe to fill and says he is awaiting what will be an 'interesting' time under Shubman Gill's leadership.

"Under Shubman, it is going to be very interesting. He is a terrific player and if he leads by example, it will be really good for him, the team and everyone else. I am sure we are going to have a lovely time because the management and support staff are all lovely. It is the beauty of that team," he added.

Though Vijay's batting alone is enough for him to find a place in Titans' playing eleven, the all-rounder is also keen on being given the ball at some point in the tournament.

He acknowledges that the Impact Player rule has taken his kind out of the equation but also warns youngsters against becoming unidimensional cricketers.

"The Impact Player rule has taken the all-rounders' game away. But I will take it as a challenge to get better. If I am the best, the ball will come to me automatically. I need to push myself to that level, where I am the best and the team needs me to bowl.

"I played for the country because I did well with bat and ball for India-A. They considered me as an all-rounder. My only player-of-the-Match [award] in international cricket is because of my bowling," he says with a chuckle, referring to his two for 32 against Bangladesh in the Nidahas Trophy in 2018.

If it happens, feel happy about it, learn from it, but move on. If it doesn't happen, learn from it and move on

VIJAY SHANKAR
treats triumph and disaster with equanimity

THE GIST

- Vijay had a breakout IPL 2023 with Gujarat Titans, scoring 301 runs at a whopping strike rate of over 160
- He says that the franchise retaining him after the 2022 season gave him a lot of confidence, and credited Titans head coach Gary Kirsten's guidance for helping him after a poor IPL 2022
- Vijay acknowledges that Hardik Pandya's absence at Gujarat Titans will be a big shoe to fill and says he is awaiting what will be an 'interesting' time under Shubman Gill's leadership

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KIA emerges as the most profitable airport in India in financial year 2022-23

Five other airports in Karnataka — Mangaluru, Belagavi, Hubballi, Kalaburagi, and Mysuru — collectively incurred a loss of ₹185.17 crore during the same period

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

A file photo of Terminal-2 of the Kempegowda International Airport. Aviation expert Devesh Agarwal says restaurants, lounges, shops, and duty-free outlets are a major source of revenue for airports.

While the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) is the most profitable airport in the country earning a profit of ₹528 crore in the financial year 2022-23, other airports in the State incurred losses during the same period.

As per information by Minister of State for Civil Aviation Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (retd), in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha during the ongoing winter session of Parliament, the KIA recorded a profit in 2022-23 after incurring losses in the previous two years.

In 2022-23, the KIA was the most profitable airport among public-private partnership (PPP) airports.

During the COVID-19 years, the KIA's earnings were in the red. In 2020-21, when flight operations took a complete hit owing to the travel ban imposed by the government, the KIA recorded a loss of ₹572.8 crore. In 2021-22, the airport recorded a loss of ₹376.52 crore.

The Mangaluru International Airport, the only other airport in the State to operate international flights, also incurred a loss of ₹125.98 crore during 2022-23.

During 2020-21 and 2021-22, the airport incurred a loss of ₹28.97 crore and ₹82.83 crore.

The Minister's reply also states that five airports [Mangaluru, Belagavi, Hubballi, Kalaburagi, and Mysuru] collectively incurred a loss of ₹185.17 crore during 2022-2023.

During 2022-23, Belagavi incurred a loss of ₹23.84 crore, Hubballi (₹23.82 crore), Kalaburagi (₹6.45 crore), and Mysuru (₹5.68 crore). The four airports are operated by the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

Aviation expert Devesh Agarwal said that KIA occupying the top position among the most profitable among PPP airports is no surprise.

"The restaurants, lounges, shops and duty-free outlets are a major source of revenue for airports. There are a lot more international passengers who use airports like these. On the other hand, people who tend to fly out of smaller airports do not shop or eat at the airports. Besides, AAI-run airports do not have very good facilities in terms of food or shops," Mr. Agarwal said.

Mr. Agarwal added that another reason why small airports are in the red is because the costs incurred to hire personnel and maintain facilities are high even though the volume of traffic may be low.

"Even if you are operating just one flight you need security personnel, administrative staff, air traffic controllers, airport managers, and so on. So the cost incurred is quite high," Mr. Agarwal added.

Fairfax India acquires additional 7% interest in BIAL

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Fairfax India Holdings Corporation has completed the second closing of its acquisition of an additional equity interest in Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) from Siemens Project Ventures GmbH, part of Siemens Financial Services (SFS).

"In connection with the second closing, Fairfax India, through its wholly-owned subsidiary, acquired an additional 7% equity interest in BIAL for consideration of $175 million. As previously announced, in the initial transaction, Fairfax India, through its wholly-owned subsidiary, acquired an additional 3% equity interest in BIAL from SFS for consideration of $75 million," Fairfax India said.

Following completion of the second closing, Fairfax India's aggregate share ownership in BIAL has increased to 64% (20.4% held by its wholly-owned subsidiary and 43.6% held by its indirect subsidiary, Anchorage Infrastructure Investments Holdings Limited) from 54% last year.

BIAL, under a concession agreement with the Centre until 2068, has the exclusive rights to carry out the development, design, financing, construction, commissioning, maintenance, operation and management of KIAB through a PPP.

Garlic breaches ₹300 per kg mark due to supply crunch

Jyoti Harpal
Rishabh Sachdeva
BENGALURU

Women sorting garlic at a market in Bengaluru. JYOTI HARPAL

The price of garlic, an essential in many kitchens, has nearly doubled within a short timeframe, and has surpassed ₹300 per kg in Bengaluru. The primary factor contributing to this surge is the inadequate rainfall in neighbouring States, leading to diminished garlic supply.

A lack of local availability to meet the demand has driven up the prices, traders said. They anticipate a continuation of this trend, projecting even steeper prices in the upcoming days, exacerbated by heightened demand during the wedding season.

Muniraju, a wholesaler at the Agriculture Produce and Livestock Market Committee, said: "Garlic supply for all of us comes from Gujarat. With the current absence of production, prices have witnessed a surge, reflecting the challenges posed by the current market dynamics."

At K.R. Market, Naser Ullah, wholesale trader, said: "Supply has been low over the last two months, and customers have either stopped buying or are purchasing very small quantities. Last year, we sold garlic for ₹30-₹40 per kg, but the price rose from ₹150-₹160 to above ₹300 per kg in just 15 days due to scarcity.

In retail markets, many traders have stopped bringing garlic for sale from the wholesale markets. Lakshmi Devi, a local vendor in Cox Town, said: "I am unaware of why garlic prices have been rising so rapidly, but it has become difficult for me as I can only afford to buy a small quantity".

> Garlic supply for all of us comes from Gujarat. With the current absence of production, prices have witnessed a surge, reflecting the challenges posed by the current market dynamics.
>
> **MUNIRAJU,**
> Wholesaler at the Agriculture Produce and Livestock Market Committee

While consumers expressed their dissatisfaction about having to buy most commodities at inflated prices, hoteliers said they had no choice but to buy the essential at a hiked price. Veerendra N. Kamat, secretary, Bruhat Bengaluru Hoteliers Association, said: "We experience this kind of situation every year and after a month or half, the prices will come down. We still use the same amount of garlic as we did before, but we purchase it at higher price. We cannot change the price of the food items. The government should monitor this as there are many cases of artificial demand-supply. "

Priya Desai, a customer in Cox Town, said: "It is disheartening to see essential items becoming more expensive. While we have grown somewhat accustomed to recent price fluctuations, managing these changes still poses a challenge."

However, some traders believe the price of garlic will come down in a few days when demand falls due to hiked price.

Imran Sayyed, a wholesaler at K.R. market, said: "Demand has already decreased rapidly, and we expect prices to normalise within 20-25 days, as soon as the new crop hits the market."

Govt. reimburses ₹1,669.45 cr. for Shakti scheme while RTCs issued tickets worth over ₹2,671 cr.

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Shakti reimbursement

Corporation	Released amount	Pending amount
KSRTC	₹62,511.66 lakh	₹32,199.30 lakh
BMTC	₹29,465.09 lakh	₹14,653.49 lakh
NWKRTC	₹41,746.46 lakh	₹21,385.59 lakh
KKRTC	₹33,221.78 lakh	₹16,979.34 lakh
Total	**₹1,66,945.00 lakh**	**₹85,217.72 lakh**

From June 2023 to November 2023 — Source: Transport Department

The Karnataka government has reimbursed ₹1,66,945 lakh (₹1,669.45 crore) to the four Road Transport Corporations (RTCs) based on the number of zero tickets issued to women commuters till November 2023.

During the winter session of the Assembly in Belagavi, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy shared the information in response to a query about the reimbursement to the four RTCs for the Shakti scheme of the Congress.

"From June 2023 till November 2023, the government disbursed ₹1,66,945 lakh to road transport corporations (KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC, and KKRTC). KSRTC received ₹62,511.66 lakh (₹625.11 crore), BMTC received ₹29,465.09 lakh (₹294.65 crore), NWKRTC received ₹41,746.46 lakh (₹417.46 crore), and KKRTC received ₹33,221.78 lakh (₹332.21 crore)," Mr. Reddy informed the Assembly.

On June 11, the newly-elected Congress government in Karnataka had launched the first among five poll guarantees – the Shakti scheme, under which women can travel for free in non-premium services of State-run buses.

Since its launch, the scheme has garnered positive reception from female passengers. From the day of its launch until December 10 (Sunday), 111,83,06,781 women passengers had utilised the initiative to travel across the State. The cumulative value of tickets purchased by these women passengers amounts to ₹2,671,43,86,232 (over ₹2,671 crore).

The figures indicate that the government has not completely reimbursed the four RTCs. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had allocated ₹2,800 crore for the Shakti scheme in the current financial year in the State budget.

Even as the Shakti scheme has achieved over 100 crore rides, the government's plan to issue smart cards to women passengers, originally scheduled for implementation within three months of the scheme's launch on June 11, has faced delays. The Transport Department, in partnership with the Centre for e-Governance (CeG), has created prototypes of smart cards for the Shakti scheme.

Mr. Reddy said, "The deployment of these smart cards might experience delays as we are currently evaluating their suitability for use, especially on city routes, especially in the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC)."

After the launch of the initiative, the government specified that women who want to avail themselves of Shakti scheme must apply via the official portal meant for the scheme, and provide a valid government-issued ID card as proof of identity. Subsequently, Road Transport Corporations will distribute Shakti smart cards, utilizing a tap-and-travel technology approach where passengers tap their smart cards on conductors' ticketing machines.

23-year-old woman accuses husband of forcing her into wife swapping

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 23-year-old private firm employee, while filing a dowry harassment and domestic violence case with the Basavanagudi women's police station, accused her husband of forcing her into wife swapping.

In her complaint, the victim said that she married her colleague with the consent of both their parents and paid a heavy dowry, including ₹2 lakh in cash and gold valuables, last December.

The woman further alleged that everything was normal initially, but soon the in-laws started harassing her, including commenting on the quality of the gold valuables she had brought.

The woman alleged that one of her relatives then began harassing and touching her inappropriately.

When she complained to her husband, he forced her to watch objectionable videos instead and demanded unnatural sexual favours, she alleged.

The husband even started pestering her to agree to wife swapping as it was common among his circle, she claimed.

When she objected, the accused allegedly assaulted her and even tried to kill her when she was sleeping, she alleged.

KSLSA creates new record by settling 25.14 lakh cases in a day at Lok Adalat across Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A couple who agreed to reconcile during the Lok Adalat in Yadgir district on December 9.

Breaking all its earlier records, the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA) has set a new mark in amicably settling 25,14,343 cases in a day in the national-level Lok Adalat held across the State on December 9.

As many as 2,24,080 cases from those pending in various district and taluk courts and 22,90,263 pre-litigation cases were among the ones settled.

This is the highest number of cases settled in the Lok Adalats held in the State so far, Justice P.S. Dinesh Kumar, a judge of the High Court of Karnataka and the Executive Chairperson of the KSLSA, told presspersons here on Tuesday.

For the first time, he said the writ petitions seeking writ of mandamus from the High Court were considered before the Lok Adalat and 22 such petitions were amicably settled at Dharwad Bench of the High Court.

Justice Kumar said that 1,358 matrimonial cases wee amicably resolved and 262 couples were reunited.

Stating that the total amount disbursed to litigants through settlements in the Lok Adalat was about ₹1,569 crore, he said that ₹209 crore was paid as compensation by settling 4,031 motor vehicle accident claim cases, and ₹124 crore was released to the litigants by settling 522 cases related to awards passed in land acquisition cases.

On the long pendency of cases, particularly on partition among the family members, Justice Kumar said that litigants in such cases should come forward to settle the cases before the Lok Adalat.

Pointing out that a property litigation has been pending before the Bengaluru city civil court for the past 62 years, in view of multiple rounds of litigations upto the level of the Supreme Court, he said that the Lok Adalat had succeeded in bringing an amicable settlement between the parties in two litigations pending for 18 and 11 years in the Mandya and the Chanarajnagar courts.

BUSINESS CONNECT — A Business Initiative

Reena Ahluwalia's Bejeweled Royal Mysore Paintings Acquired by C. Krishniah Chetty Crystal Museum

The Maharaja and Maharani of Mysore paintings by artist Reena Ahluwalia record the historic legacy of Indian gems and jewelry on canvas. Artist has released intricate, bedazzling paintings of the Maharaja and Maharani of Mysore. Now, the Royal Mysore paintings have been acquired by C. Krishniah Chetty Crystal Museum - a private, by-appointment museum in Bengaluru, India. In Royal Mysore paintings, Ahluwalia captures the opulence of the past and etches the historic legacy of Indian gems and jewelry onto canvas. The paintings celebrate an unbroken jewellery heritage and the enduring significance these gems retain in the tapestry of Indian culture. Dr. C. Vinod Hayagriv, Managing Director, Director, as well as a gemologist of the C. Krishniah Chetty Group, said, "Being the last person with interest in the illustrious history of our business, it was time to record and share the events and experiences the family has gone through over our now sesquicentennial journey. During our travels, we come across magnificent gems, and Reena's exquisite paintings immediately caught my attention. Over time, I collected a few of her paintings. The two Royal Mysore paintings were commissioned by me and are now proudly displayed in the Crystal Museum Salon." The Royal Mysore paintings in the museum ensure their legacy and provide a glimpse into India's gem and jewelry history for future generations.

Bank Of Maharashtra opens its 40th Branch at Hebbal, Bengaluru

BOM one of leading public sector bank today opened a new state of the art branch at Hebbal in Karnataka. With the opening of this branch, BOM now has a total of 40 branches and 35 ATMs in Bengaluru Zone, which is spread across 12 districts in South Karnataka. The Branch shall cater to all basic banking transactions and also specific needs of customers. Chief Guest, Former Justice of the Supreme Court of India, Justice Shri V Gopalagowda inaugurated the branch and wished for prosperous business. Mr. Y Srinivas, Zonal Head of Bengaluru Zone, said, was delighted to open one new branch in Area and fulfil their commitment to providing banking services to retail customers through a fast expanding network of branches and other channels.

Shri (Dr.) Manjunath Kanmadi takes over as Chief Public Relations Officer, South Western Railway

Recently Shri (Dr.) Manjunath Kanmadi took over as Chief Public Relations Officer, South Western Railway. He is a native of Jamkhandi, Bagalkot district of Karnataka and a qualified medical doctor. Before taking over as CPRO/SWR, Shri (Dr.) Manjunath Kanmadi was working as Dy. Chief Commercial Manager/Passenger Service, South Western Railway. He has worked in various capacities on South Western Railway as Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Mysuru & Hubballi Divisions, Divisional Operations Manager, Hubballi Division etc.

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The limitations of CCS and CDR and their grip on future climate

The emission scenarios that the IPCC has assessed that have more than a 50% chance of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees C, with no or limited overshoot, assume the world can sequester 5 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2040. This is more than India currently emits every year

Rishika Pardikar

At the COP28 climate talks underway in Dubai, draft decisions thus far have referred to the abatement and removal of carbon emissions using carbon capture and storage (CCS) and carbon-dioxide removal (CDR) technologies. Considering the meaning of the word 'abatement' has become an important bone of contention, understanding the meaning and limitations of CCS is important - as also those of CDR.

Carbon dioxide storage tanks seen at a cement plant and carbon capture facility at Wuhu in Anhui province ofChina on September 11, 2019. REUTERS

What are CCS and CDR?

CCS refers to technologies that can capture carbon dioxide (CO_2) at a source of emissions before it is released into the atmosphere. These sources include the fossil fuel industry (where coal, oil and gas are combusted to generate power) and industrial processes like steel and cement production.

CDR takes the forms of both natural means like afforestation or reforestation and technologies like direct air capture, where machines mimic trees by absorbing CO_2 from their surroundings and storing it underground.

There are also more complex CDR technologies like enhanced rock weathering, where rocks are broken down chemically; the resulting rock particles can remove CO_2 from the atmosphere. Other technologies like bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) capture and store CO_2 from burning biomass, like wood.

At COP28, the term "unabated fossil fuels" has come to mean the combustion of these fuels without using CCS technologies to capture their emissions. Draft decision texts point to a need to "phase out" such unabated fossil fuels. On the other hand, removal technologies have been referenced in the context of the need to scale zero and low-emission technologies and support forest restoration as a means to promote emission removals.

How much CCS and CDR?

While their technical details are clear, scientists have questions about the scale at which CCS and CDR are expected to succeed.

The Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), prepared by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), deals with climate mitigation. It relies a lot on the use of CDR for its projections related to the world achieving the goal of limiting the world's average surface temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C with no or limited overshoot. (Overshoot means the temperature limit is temporarily exceeded.)

The emission scenarios that the IPCC has assessed that have more than a 50% chance of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees C (with no or limited overshoot) assume the world can sequester 5 billion tonnes of CO_2 by 2040. This is more than India emits currently every year.

There is no pathway to 1.5 degrees C in AR6 that doesn't use CDR.

"Without CDR, we would have to decrease emissions by more than during the COVID-19 pandemic annually," David Ho, a climate scientist at the University of Hawaii, told this reporter.

"If CO_2 emissions continue at current levels, we will have a 50% chance of exceeding 1.5 degrees C compared to pre-industrial levels in seven years," Dr. Ho added. "To achieve the decrease in CO_2 emissions we need by direct mitigation would be nearly impossible at this point, and would require a lot of CDR," Dr. Ho explained.

Direct mitigation refers to reducing our reliance on fossil fuels with renewable energy sources like solar and wind power.

How well does CCS work?

The IPCC AR6 report states CDR ought to be used "to counterbalance hard-to-abate residual emissions." The reason: "available CDR is to be used strategically to compensate hard to abate residual emissions, not to maintain a high level of fossil fuel use," Alaa Al Khourdajie, a research fellow at Imperial College London and a contributing author to AR6, said.

For CCS, too, Dr. Al Khourdajie and other AR6 authors showed in a recent paper that the term "abated fossil fuels" should be used only in the context of highly effective CCS applications, with a capture rate of 90-95% or more, the captured emissions being stored permanently, and methane emissions leakage from upstream oil and gas production processes being kept under 0.5% (approaching 0.2%).

But in the real world, natural CDR has been tacked on to existing emissions. For example, the 2023 'Land Gap' report estimated that various governments have proposed to remove CO_2 using around one billion hectares of land. Based on this, the report reflected: "Some pledges over-rely on land-based CDR to offset fossil fuel emissions. This raises serious concerns that these countries are shifting their mitigation burden away from reducing fossil fuel use."

> Available CDR is to be used strategically to compensate hard to abate residual emissions, not to maintain a high level of fossil fuel use

As for CCS developments, Henri Waisman, who leads a global initiative called 'Deep Decarbonization Pathways' and coauthored an IPCC Special Report, said, "CCS is still a technology under development without demonstrated feasibility at large scale despite decades of development."

Aside from high cost, he pointed to creation of additional energy needs, and challenges in the transport and long-term storage of carbon.

How well does CDR work?

CDR methods like afforestation, reforestation, BECCS, and direct air capture are constrained by their need for land.

Land also invokes equity concerns. Land in the Global South is often considered to be 'viable' and/or 'cost-effective' for planting trees and deploying other large-scale CDR methods. As a result, such CDR projects can adversely affect land rights of indigenous communities and biodiversity and compete with other forms of land-use, like agriculture that is crucial for ensuring food security.

This is of particular concern vis-à-vis technological CDR at scale. "For example, what's to prevent companies from using land in the global south for direct air capture and using land that would otherwise be used to generate renewable energy to power the economies of global south countries?" Dr. Ho asked.

He added that "the next decade will be pivotal in determining if there are viable and scalable CDR methods. But we also need to figure out who will pay for CDR at scale in the future.

"Imagine global north countries asking 'why should we spend trillions of dollars on CDR when we can spend it on adaptation?'"

Pitfalls of CCS and CDR

By removing CO_2 from their environs, there are concerns that CCS and CDR create more 'room' to emit the greenhouse gas. (In some cases, CCS has also been used to inject captured CO_2 is into oil fields to extract more oil.)

In future emissions scenarios that the IPCC has assessed, the world's use of coal, oil, and gas in 2050 needs to decline by about 95%, 60%, and 45% respectively (all median values) from their use in 2019 to keep the planet from warming by less than 1.5 degrees C with no or limited overshoot. But without CCS, the expected reductions are 100%, 60%, and 70% for coal, oil, and gas by 2050.

In a recent paper, an international group of researchers wrote that higher use of CCS and CDR make way for emissions pathways with a higher contribution from gas.

(Rishika Pardikar is a freelance environment reporter.)

A February 5, 2018, photo taken at Chicago's Field Museum showing its *T. rex* skeleton. AP

Cousin of T. rex had an extremely particular palate

Reuters

The young Gorgosaurus knew what it liked for dinner. About 75 million years ago in what is now Canada's Alberta province, this fearsome *Tyrannosaurus rex* cousin set about hunting turkey-sized yearlings of a feathered plant-eating dinosaur called Citipes.

With such prey numerous, the Gorgosaurus could be picky about what it ate. It dismembered the helpless Citipes and swallowed its meaty legs whole, ignoring the rest of the carcass.

Scientists have said they have unearthed fossilised remains of a juvenile Gorgosaurus that was 5 to 7 years old and 4.5 m long. Amazingly, it included the animal's stomach contents, revealing its last meals.

Gorgosaurus and the more famous Tyrannosaurus, which lived several million years later, are members of a meat-eating dinosaur group called tyrannosaurs. This fossil has provided insight into the ecology of this group, showing that the feeding strategy and diet of tyrannosaurs changed dramatically during their lifespan. This is the first tyrannosaur skeleton with prey items preserved inside its stomach.

Based on tooth marks left on bones, adults are known to have hunted big plant-eating dinosaurs.

The stomach contents included the leg and foot bones of two Citipes yearlings. Citipes was a small, birdlike dinosaur that walked on two legs and had a head resembling a parrot

"Adult tyrannosaurs were well-equipped for seizing and killing large prey, like duckbilled dinosaurs and horned dinosaurs. Their skulls and teeth were capable of withstanding the major torsional stresses associated with biting and holding onto large prey," said François Therrien, dinosaur palaeoecology curator at the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Alberta and co-leader of the study published in the journal *Science Advances*.

"In contrast, the weaker bites and teeth of young tyrannosaurs were ideal for slashing bites, not holding onto prey," Dr. Therrien added.

Gorgosaurus, a bit smaller than Tyrannosaurus, walked on two legs, had short arms with two-fingered hands, a massive skull 1 m long, reached 9-10 m in length, and weighed 2-3 tonnes. The juvenile Gorgosaurus weighed about 330 kg, with a skull around 50 cm long.

The fossil was unearthed at Dinosaur Provincial Park in southern Alberta.

The stomach contents included the leg and foot bones of two Citipes yearlings. Citipes was a small, birdlike dinosaur that walked on two legs and had a head resembling a parrot.

"Since the Citipes would have [laid] some 30 eggs in a nest, their hatchlings would have been abundant in the ecosystem and ripe for the picking by young tyrannosaurs," said University of Calgary dinosaur paleontologist and study co-leader Darla Zelenitsky.

Based on the differing stomach acid damage to the Citipes bones, the yearlings were eaten at different times, and the Gorgosaurus died from unknown causes hours or days after its last meal.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Pop quiz! Have you been keeping up with the science page?

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Name the new awards for scientists that India's Ministry of Science and Technology announced in September 2022, after dissolving the previous set of more than 300 awards.

QUESTION 2

India's carbon dioxide emissions from 1750 to 2021 constitute what percentage of the global total in this period? Those of European countries account for 31%, the U.S. 24.3%, and China 14.4%.

QUESTION 3

What are the two constituents of the Mk-84 bomb? Israeli Armed Forces hit the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza in October 2023 with two of these bombs and exposed the people here to their explosive force as well as polluted the land, water, air, and soil with their toxic materials.

QUESTION 4

Rabies causes nearly 60,000 human deaths every year, more than a third of which are recorded in India. Name the virus that causes this disease, whose infection can be prevented by a vaccine.

QUESTION 5

A circulating current in a fluid is called an eddy. The Russian physicist _____ _____ is credited with proposing the idea that the ratio of the velocities of two eddies is determined simply by the ratio of the sizes of the two eddies. So two eddies 1 km and 10 km wide and 1 m and 10 m would have the same velocity ratios. Fill in the blanks.

Answers to December 12 quiz:

1. Full form of CRISPR – **Ans: Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats**
2. Developers of CRISPR – **Ans: Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier**
3. Blood stem cells multiplying in the bone marrow improve delivery of this – **Ans: Oxygen**
4. Name of therapy other than Casgevy approved by the U.S. FDA – **Ans: Lyfgenia**
5. Casgevy and Lyfgenia are designed to reduce the occurrence of this – Ans: **Vaso-occlusive crises**

Visual: **Streptococcus pyogenes**

First contact: Karuny | Sreeram S. Karunakaran | Saumya Rawat | Keshav Kumar

Visual: Name this lake in Sikkim that, on October 3, 2023, broke its natural banks and triggered floods in a valley. The image shows the lake before and after. MAXAR/REUTERS

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Japanese adaptive traffic signals to finally get electricity connection

The proposal to install them was initially put forth in 2014, but the actual work began only in July 2021; despite the initial aim of completion by October 2022, various delays were encountered

A file photo of traffic congestion on the Hebbal flyover. The new traffic signals are expected to alleviate congestion on major roads by incorporating pedestrian crossings.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Japan International Cooperation Agency-funded project is being implemented by DULT

Months after the adaptive traffic signal control system that uses Japan's MODERATO (Management of Origin-Destination-Related Adaptation for Traffic Optimisation) technology was installed at several signals in the city, the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) has finally floated a short-term tender for providing electricity connectivity.

The new traffic signals installed in the central business district (CBD) area are expected to alleviate congestion on major roads by incorporating pedestrian crossings.

The proposal to implement these signals was initially put forth in 2014, but actual work commenced only in July 2021. Despite the initial aim of completing the project by October 2022, various delays were encountered, resulting in the project missing several deadlines.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-funded project is implemented by the DULT. "Soon, these signals will be provided with electrical connectivity. We are taking up the final work; the Area Traffic Control System will then be handed over to the Bengaluru Traffic Police for operations and maintenance," the official said.

According to officials, the Adaptive Signal Control Technology (ASCT) is designed to address congestion issues and enhance efficiency in waiting time at intersections.

Originally slated for implementation at 29 junctions, the project now covers 28. The exclusion of one junction is attributed to the ongoing Namma Metro construction in the area.

"Key components of the ASCT include signal arms and aspects catering to both motorists and pedestrians. Additionally, the system incorporates an automatic traffic counter and classifier to measure vehicle movement, along with a queue-length measurement system at critical junctions to monitor the buildup of queues. An integral part of the project is the utilisation of a central control software named MODERATO, which enables real-time optimisation of signal phasing and timings across all junctions," an official explained.

HC rejects lawyers' plea for issuing direction to arrest six accused police personnel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday made it clear that it cannot direct the police to arrest the accused persons, either in the complaint lodged by an advocate against police personnel for alleged assault or in the counter complaints lodged by the police against him and other advocates in connection with the recent case of clash between the lawyers and the police in Chikkamagaluru.

Pointing out that it is the prerogative of the investigation officer of the CID, to whom the probe has been transferred from the Chikkamagaluru police, the court said that it would be contrary to law if it accepted a plea of the Advocate Association, Bengaluru, to issue a direction to arrest the six accused police.

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit, made these observations while disposing of the PIL petition, which the court *suo motu* initiated on December 1 by taking cognisance of the November 30 incident of alleged assault on an advocate, Preetam, by the police inside the station in Chikkamagaluru following arguments over traffic rule violation.

Observing that the court is satisfied with the prompt action taken by the State government by transferring the probe to the CID, the Bench said that it cannot issue any direction on investigation as the probe on the FIRs is at a preliminary stage and the advocates have not placed any material to show that there is delay in conducting investigation.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, DEC. 14		
RISE	06:33	SET 17:55
RISE	07:47	SET 19:19
FRIDAY, DEC. 15		
RISE	06:33	SET 17:56
RISE	08:48	SET 20:23
SATURDAY, DEC. 16		
RISE	06:34	SET 17:56
RISE	09:45	SET 21:27

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	22
Mysuru	30	24
Bengaluru	29	19

Bengaluru Today
29°C Morning will be pleasant. The weather will be slight warm and humid. Short spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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16th ANNIVERSARY
BECAUSE OF YOU, WE ARE

Mrs. RAJESWARI
(PROP: SRI RAMAJAYAM BUS SERVICE)
W/o. Dr.G. Viswanathan
Founder - Chancellor, VIT University.

Dr. G.V. Sampath
(Chairman - Naruvi Hospitals)
Anitha Sampath - Nithin Sampath
naruvi HOSPITALS a licensee of Henry Ford HEALTH SYSTEM
VELLORE

25th ANNIVERSARY

19.09.1936 — 14.12.1998

Thiru. N.P.V. RAMASAMY UDAYAR
Founder - Chancellor,
Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (DU)

You have proved that education alone
will not yield one's future.
Creativity, entrepreneurship, hard work and
relentless effort are all
necessary to become a leader.
The greatest wealth you have
left to this country is a
medical citadel (SRIHER) which has
paved the way for excellent
health care professionals.
On this day, we bow our head and
salute you for your formidable thought
and epoch making endeavour.

V.R. Venkataachalam
Chancellor, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (DU)
Family Members
Trustees, Sri Ramachandra Educational and Health Trust
Faculty, Staff & Students

SRI RAMACHANDRA
INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
(Category -I Deemed to be University) Porur, Chennai

16th ANNIVERSARY

A Symbol of Simplicity and Sacrifice

எளிமைக்கும்
தியாகத்திற்கும்
ஓர் உதாரணம்

Birth : 13.7.1948
Death : 14.12.2007

Tmt. K. Rajeswari, B.A.
w/o. G. Viswanathan
Trustee, VIT
(Prop. : Sri Ramajayam Motor Service, Vellore)

Always in your remembrance

G. Viswanathan
Chancellor, VIT

Sankar, Ramani, Kadhambari
Sekar, Sandhya, Nila
Selvam, Anusha, Sujan, Sabareesh, Rajeswari

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The number of MGNREGA job cards deleted in 2022-23

5.48 in crore. This was a 267% jump from the last fiscal, the Union Rural Development Ministry informed Lok Sabha. West Bengal saw the most number of MGNREGA job cards being deleted. PTI

The smuggled gold seized from January to October

3,917.5 in kg. As many as 4,798 cases of gold smuggling were recorded till October 2023. In 2022, 3,502.16 kg of smuggled gold was seized. PTI

The value of the rupee against the dollar, at an all-time low

83.41 The rupee depreciated to hit an all-time closing low. Forex traders said a fall in oil prices provided support, but a muted trend in equity markets triggered negative bias. PTI

Mutual funds SIP collection soars in 2023

1.66 in ₹ lakh crore. The total invested in the first 11 months this year is way higher than the ₹1.5 lakh crore invested in 2022, ₹1.14 lakh crore in 2021 and ₹97,000 crore in 2020. PTI

The percentage by which Argentina devalued peso

50 The official exchange rate will go to 800 pesos to the dollar, up from 391. The move was part of "shock" measures to tackle triple-digit inflation and cut spending. AFP

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Row over hate speech in U.S. universities

What happened at a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education with the Presidents of three U.S. universities? Why has there been a marked increase in the number of anti-semitic and Islamophobic incidents in college campuses?

EXPLAINER

Narayan Lakshman

The story so far:

This week University of Pennsylvania President Liz Magill resigned following criticism of her testimony a few days prior, on December 5, at a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education. Along with the leaders of Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of technology, Ms. Magill was criticised for taking a soft line on punishing hate speech on campus, purportedly in defence of free speech laws. The specific subject in question at the hearing was an issue that is raging across elite university campuses across the country – a dramatic uptick in the number of anti-semitic and Islamophobic incidents against individuals in the wake of the spiralling violence after the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7.

What was the Congressional hearing about?

On December 5, Ms. Magill along with Claudine Gay and Sally Kornbluth, respectively the Presidents of Harvard and MIT, attended a hearing conducted by the House Committee on Education, where they were questioned, in the most significant segments by Elise Stefanik, Republican Congresswoman from New York, about whether their respective universities' codes of conduct did not ban their students from calling for the killing of Jewish people. When Ms. Magill answered that the outcome for that question was a "context-dependent decision", even in the face of some protestors on her campus calling for an "Intifada revolution", she was criticised for giving a relatively weak reply, probably in line with the legal advice that she had received on the subject. The same applied to the replies of Ms. Gay, who is African American, and Ms. Kornbluth, who is Jewish. Both of them supplied technically correct answers that seemed to miss the broader context of the ongoing hate speech and attacks. While Ms. Magill went on to resign, and both she and Ms. Gay later apologised for their comments at the hearing, Ms. Gay and Ms. Kornbluth were said to have the support of their respective universities.

Tough times: Harvard University President Claudine Gay testifies in the U.S., on December 5. REUTERS

The three university presidents were summoned to testify before the House Committee by its Chair, Congresswoman Virginia Foxx of North Carolina. The summons came after certain lawmakers said that the universities were "mishandling anti-semitic, violent" protests on campus.

How serious is hate speech in the U.S. in the present context?

In parallel to the December 5 hearings, the U.S. Department of Education has announced that it had opened an investigation into anti-semitism allegations with regards to at least six other universities, including the Tulane University in Louisiana, Union College in New York, Cobb County School District in Georgia, University of Cincinnati in Ohio, Santa Monica College in California, and Montana State University in Montana. In announcing these investigations, the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights indicated that these efforts were part of the Biden administration's intention to take action amid the "alarming nationwide rise in reports of anti-semitism, anti-Muslim, anti-Arab and other forms of discrimination."

In numerous instances, the "hate incidents" relate to public protests held on university property. For example, at a New York high school, students stormed through the school in protest of a Jewish teacher attending a "pro-Israel rally"; at Tulane University, assaults against students and a police officer at a rally, led to three individuals being arrested and charged with hate crimes; and at Harvard, after 30 student groups signed a letter partly blaming Israel for "all unfolding violence" post October 7, members of those groups said that they faced public outrage and harassment including doxxing where their names and faces were pasted on a billboard truck driving around the campus.

What are universities doing?

Some universities including Harvard and Tulane have already started taking concrete measures to support those who have been victims of hate crimes in the present context, including increased campus security and training regarding anti-semitism. Harvard University is said to have set up a task force to aid students targeted by doxxing attempts.

What are the broader ramifications for free speech in the U.S.?

A part of the problem appears to be the fact that while there are vociferous campaigns to end anti-semitism, Palestinian students at these universities allege that Islamophobia has been given considerably less public attention. Anxieties are mounting in this regard after three university students of Palestinian descent were shot in Vermont in November.

In this context the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) clarifies that phrases such as "from the river to the sea", is as much a part of speech protected under the U.S. constitution as "Make America great again".

There is a broad consensus that the line with respect to 'hate speech' is drawn only in instances of speech that contains a "serious and imminent threat of violence, incitement to violence, or that pervasively harasses someone based on their race, gender, ethnicity, religion, national origin or other protected characteristics".

THE GIST

- This week University of Pennsylvania President Liz Magill resigned following criticism of her testimony a few days prior, on December 5, at a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Educatio
- On December 5, Ms. Magill along with Claudine Gay and Sally Kornbluth, respectively the Presidents of Harvard and MIT, attended a hearing conducted by the House Committee on Education, where they were questioned about whether their respective universities' codes of conduct did not ban their students from calling for the killing of Jewish people.
- A part of the problem appears to be the fact that while there are vociferous campaigns to end anti-semitism, Palestinian students at these universities allege that Islamophobia has been given considerably less public attention.

How will election boycott by the BNP affect Bangladesh?

Why is the Bangladesh Nationalist Party not participating in the polls? Will there be free and fair elections?

Kallol Bhattacherjee

The story so far:

On October 28, during a rally organised by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the chief Opposition party of Bangladesh, a fight broke out between the BNP cadre and law enforcement officials which led to the death of a policeman and incidents of arson. The government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina responded by jailing most of the top Opposition leaders of BNP including Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir. This confrontation came in the backdrop of the long pending demand of the BNP to hold elections under a 'caretaker' government. It has refused to participate in any other election even as the Election Commission of Bangladesh announced the poll date for January 7.

Why is BNP boycotting the election?

BNP leaders have maintained that they will not participate in the election of January 7 as they do not feel the elections will be free and fair under the Awami League government. However, the party did not clarify how they hope this strategy of boycott would help them in attaining their goal of capturing political power in Bangladesh. The party has been out of power since it was defeated in the 2009 election, and considers its boycott of elections as a form of protest which may delegitimise the election of January 7.

While the BNP has a major street presence in Bangladesh, with active units in all the districts and subdivisions of the country, it is just one of the 14 parties that are boycotting the election while 26 others are participating. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been claiming that the poll will be legitimate as a lot of other political parties, including the Jatiyo Party (Monju), are expected to participate in the election. Critics have pointed out that apart from the Awami League, most of the parties in the fray are "small" indicating that they would not be in a position to throw a challenge to the ruling Awami League. Much will depend on PM Hasina's personal commitment to ensuring democratic participation even if the election is held without the BNP.

Will the elections be free and fair?

The Sheikh Hasina government has welcomed international observers to come and observe the election process for themselves. Foreign Secretary Masud bin Momen visited Delhi to interact with foreign diplomats and invited them to be present on ground in Bangladesh to witness the election assuring that the Government of Sheikh Hasina remains committed to conducting a free and fair election. However, an election without BNP can not be described as a real contest as this would be a repeat of the 2014 elections when BNP did not participate. BNP has been demanding polls under a caretaker government but the Awami League has stated that the law does not permit that kind of arrangement.

The U.S. and the European Union among others have been increasing pressure on Bangladesh to hold a free and transparent election. This was opposed by Russia and China who have said that the U.S. is trying to meddle in the democratic process of another country. While India has maintained silence, it has indirectly conveyed it prefers the affairs of Bangladesh to be left to its own people.

How is a BNP-less election expected to affect Bangladesh?

Over the past fifteen years, BNP's top leaders like Tarique Rahman have been based out of the country. The party has been led by leaders like Alamgir, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and other members of the Standing Committee. However, overall, the party has been ceding space to the Islamist hardline when it comes to street presence. Its agitations have been taken over by Islamist hardliners like the Jamaat-e-Islami and the Islami Chhatra Shibir. There is fear that in the absence of the BNP, the Islamist groups of Bangladesh may step up to fill the void left by the party.

Will there be violence?

The government of Sheikh Hasina has been largely successful in maintaining peace and stability in Bangladesh so far. Some commentators like *The Daily Star* of Dhaka has predicted that the election is "all but doomed" but this is unlikely to trigger violence between the cadre of the two sides. There is however a danger of violence by Islamist organisations if things spiral out of control.

THE GIST

- BNP leaders have maintained that they will not participate in the election of January 7 as they do not feel the elections will be free and fair under the Awami League government.
- The U.S. and the European Union among others have been increasing pressure on Bangladesh to a hold free and transparent election.
- The government of Sheikh Hasina has been largely successful in maintaining peace and stability in Bangladesh so far.

Gift centres raided, e-cigarettes seized

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kothanur police on Wednesday raided two gift centres and seized e-cigarette consignments worth ₹26 lakh. The police have also arrested five people operating the gift centres and selling the banned products to customers in and around the city.

Based on specific inputs, the police raided the shops and seized the e-cigarettes and foreign brand cigarettes.

The police have registered a case against the accused charging them under COTPA (The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act) and are investigating further.

The police have stepped up vigil to look out for drugs and other banned items suspected to be sold for New Year celebrations.

KSDL pays ₹54.75 crore dividend to govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) on Tuesday paid a dividend of ₹54.75 crore to the Karnataka government.

A cheque in this regard was handed over to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah by Minister for Large and Medium Scale Industries and Infrastructure Development, M.B. Patil, who is also the Chairman of KSDL. The company achieved a gross turnover of ₹ 1,375 crore in the financial year 2022-23 with a gross profit of ₹279 crores, KSDL said in a press release.

Convocation of Alliance University

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 1,061 graduates were conferred degrees at the Alliance University's convocation on December 10.

According to a release, 10 doctoral degrees and 378 postgraduate degrees were awarded, besides 299 postgraduate diplomas, and 374 undergraduate degrees. A total of 14 gold, 15 silver, and 13 bronze medals were awarded across diverse courses.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot spoke about the importance of Indian heritage and emphasised the idea of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients have negotiated with the Owners, (1) **R. Dharma Bhushan**, (2) **R. Hari Kishore,** (3) **R. Harish. R**, all Sons of Late Shantha Ramaiah and G. Ramaiah, all presently of No. 5C-605, 5th Cross, 2nd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore – 560 043, for the purchase of the Immovable Property comprising of land with a building thereon bearing **Corporation No. 5C-605, situated in 2nd Block, H.R.B.R. Layout (Hennur Road Banaswadi Road), in Corporation Ward No. 27 (88), (PID No. 88-254-5C-605)**, Bangalore, bounded on the East by Site 5C-607, West by Site No. 5C-603, North by Site No. 5AC-606, South by 5th Cross Road, measuring East to West 15.24 Mtrs., and North to South 24.60 + 24.70/2 Mtrs., totally measuring 375.67 Sq. Mtrs.

Any person or persons having/asserting any right, title or interest by way of sale, exchange, lease, tenancy, license, assignment, mortgage, charge, maintenance, lien, trust, family arrangement/settlement, encumbrances, agreement holder rights, bequest, easement, possession, development rights, order/decree/judgment of any Court, agreement or otherwise however, claims or intending to oppose purchase in any manner may file their objections to the undersigned within **FIFTEEN DAYS** (15) from the date of publication of notice hereof with documentary proof where after no such claims will be entertained and my client will proceed with the purchase of the said property.

(P. Manjunath Swamy) Advocate
No.55, Geetha Mandir 1st Cross,
Pemmegowda Road, J.C. Nagar,
Bangalore – 560 006.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

E-Tender Notice No: Y/E.29/2023-24/53 Dated : 01-12-2023

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Supply and Provision of 08 Nos. of Lifts and Power Supply arrangements over Mysuru Division.	Rs. 1,88,75,949/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 25-12-2023**

E-Tender Notice No: Y/E.29/2023-24/54 Dated : 01-12-2023

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Provision of Solar Plants in Harihar - Haveri Section (Harihar, Chalgeri, Ranibennur, Byadgi & Haveri) and Amaravathi Colony - Kotturu Section (Amaravathi Colony, Teligi, Harapanahalli & Bennehalli Stations)	Rs. 1,62,94,916/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 25-12-2023**

E-Tender Notice No: Y/E.29/2023-24/55 Dated : 02-12-2023

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
(Re-tender) 1) Provision and Improvement by generating Solar Power for water pumping equipment at 10 locations over Mysuru Division. 2) Provision of Solar pumps at various locations over Mysuru Division.	Rs. 89,68,360/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 25-12-2023**

E-Tender Notice No: Y/E.29/2023-24/56 Dated : 06-12-2023

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Provision of OHE arrangement with isolators for pit line no 4 at Mysuru for Maintenance of Vande Bharath Trains.	Rs. 9,54,655/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 05-01-2024**

E-Tender Notice No: Y/E.29/2023-24/57 Dated : 07-12-2023

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
(Re-tender) Annual Maintenance Contract including supply and installation of must change materials / spares and scheduled maintenance of Tower Wagons over Mysuru Division for a period of 2 Years.	Rs. 1,48,29,930.17

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 29-12-2023**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer Mysuru
PUB/557/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

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UTTAR PRADESH PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
10, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Prayagraj 211018 (U.P.)

PRESS NOTE

U.P. Public Service Commission, Prayagraj invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 02 (two) state-of-the-art OMR cum Colour Image Scanners at its Prayagraj Office. Interested/eligible Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs)/authorized dealers/suppliers/distributors/channel partners who have experience in supply, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance of OMR cum Colour Image Scanners are requested to submit their E.O.I. on Email (**secy.uppsc.bids@gmail.com**) and also hard copy thereof to the office of The Secretary, UP Public Service Commission, 10, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Prayagraj 211018 (U.P.) latest by 18th December 2023. The eligible parties, upon intimation by the Commission, shall be required to reach the office of the Commission on December 20th 2023 for a detailed presentation.

Secretary UPPSC

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/23-24/10267 Date: 12.12.2023

Tender Notification (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bids against Enquiry **No: KPTCL/CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/RELAY/2023-24/354/CALL-3 Dated: 07.12.2023** for "Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of Numerical Feeder Management breaker (Numerical Directional O/C & E/F) relays conforming to KPTCL specifications and compatilbe to IEC61850 including necessary software's & communication cables".

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the **KPPP** process can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 14.12.2023.** Any other details can be had from the Office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy., Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, F.T.S. compound, Mysuru-570007. Telephone: 0821-2455770/2457275.

Govt.of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation, Division Chikodi
Tel. No.: 08338-275101 E-Mail: ee.rdws.ckd@gmail.com

NO:EE/RDW&S/DN-CKD/PB/KW3&4/TENDER/2023-24/16/2017 Date: 13/12/2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-procurement Portal only)

Tenders are invited on behalf of the governor of govt of Karnataka according to KTTP act 2000 through e-procurement Portal for the below mentioned works.

SL NO:1:Name of work:Providing Operation and Maintenance to Water Supply Scheme to 27 Villages of Hukkeri Taluka of Belagavi District (KUWS and DB Handed Over Scheme) 1st Year 2023-24(INDENT NO.4300CALL-3),Amount put to Tender(In Lakhs):79.92,Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. In Lakhs:160000/-,Period of completion:1 ವರ್ಷಗಳು.

II) Calendar events are as follows : i) Date of Pre Bid Meeting:15-12-2023 time 11.00am @ EE R D W & S Division Chikodi, ii) Last date & time for receipt of tenders through e-portal 20-12-2023 upto 17.00 hours. iii) Date of Opening of Technical Bid: on 21-12-2023 at 17.30 hours, iv) Date of Opening of Financial Bid on after approval of technical bid.

III) Other conditions & eligibility criteria etc are as published in e-procurement portal. More details can be had from the office of the undersigned and also through website www.eproc.Karnataka.gov.in by clicking list of Tenders which will link to all dept works list

Sd/-Executive Engineer RDW&S Division Chikodi

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-763/KSMCA/2023-24

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, BBMP, Rajarajeshwarinagar Zone, Bengaluru - 560091.

No:SADH/RRN/TENDER/PR/343/2023-24 Date: 13-12-2023

CORRIGENDUM TO THE TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref: Our Office Tender Notification No: SADH/RRN/TENDER/01/2023-24, Date: 08-12-2023.

Tender has been published with above reference for the Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Parks of Rajarajeshwari Nagar Zone and found publishing of deficiency of EMD Amount in the following works and the said EMD Amount have been amended as mentioned below. Other tender regulations remain the same.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category	Estimated Amount (in Rs.)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Ullalu Ward Parks in Ward No. 29. **(ST)**	**57,81,542/-**	**57,815/-**
2	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Kengeri Ward Parks in Ward No. 32. **(SC)**	**27,21,563/-**	**27,216/-**
3	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Yeshwanthpura Ward Parks in Ward No. 35. **(Others)**	**7,71,250/-**	**19,281/-**
4	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Lakxmidevi Nagar Ward Parks in Ward No. 38. **(Others)**	**3,75,000/-**	**9,375/-**
5	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Srigandhada Kaval Ward Parks in Ward No. 42. **(SC)**	**40,67,125/-**	**40,671/-**

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Rajarajeshwarinagar Zone, BBMP.

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Thalamuthu Natarajan Building, No.1, Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)
(Consulting Services – Individual Selection)

Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) is in the process of preparation of the Third Master Plan (2027-2046) for the Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA) and the Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) is involved in the preparation of GIS-based Master Plans and Regional Plans. In this regard, CMDA and DTCP intends to hire the services for the below-mentioned positions.

S. No.	Name of Position	No. of Positions in CMDA	No. of Positions in DTCP	Total No.of Positions
1.	Transport Planner	1	-	1
2.	Environmental Planner	1	-	1
3.	Urban Designer	1	-	1
4.	Hydrologist	1	-	1
5.	Geologist	1	-	1
6.	Urban Planner	13	20	33

The detailed Request for Expression of Interest and Terms of Reference are available on the CMDA website **www.cmdachennai.gov.in.** The interested candidates shall express their interest on or before **29.12.2023 at 3.00 p.m** only through the Google form posted on the CMDA website. Any further Corrigendum or Amendment shall be notified on this website only. Candidates shall regularly visit the website to keep themselves updated.

Member Secretary
DIPR/6655/TENDER/2023 **Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority**

E-mail :- eemidivision_deogarh@yahoo.in
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, DEOGARH.
No.1165 / Date:11.12.2023

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE - BID REF No: SE,MID,DGR /09 / 2023-24

Bid documents consisting names of Work, Estimated cost, Cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, Class of Contractor, the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** .

1.	Name of the works	Civil Construction works.
2.	No of Works	01 (One) No.
3.	Estimated Cost	Approximately Rs.408.09 lakh
4.	Period of Completion	11 (Eleven) Calendar months
5.	Date and Time of availability of bid documents in the portal:-	From Dt.16.12.2023 at 10.00 AM to Dt.29.12.2023 up to 5.30 PM
6.	Last Date / Time of receipt of bids in the portal :-	Dt.29.12.2023 up to 5.30
7.	Date of opening of Bid:-	Dt. 30.12.2023 at 11.00 AM onwards.
8.	Name and address of the OIT:-	Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Deogarh.
9.	Mode of Payment of Bid Cost & Bid Security:-	Online

** Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place http://tendersodisha.gov.in

Superintending Engineer, M.I.Division, Deogarh.
A-998 : OIPR-32289/11/0009/2324

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
CIRCLE-II, CONSTRUCTION WING, FIRST FLOOR 'A' BLOCK
'E' ROAD, KOYAMBEDU, CHENNAI-107

SHORT E- TENDER NOTICE Dt. 13.12.2023

E-Tender are invited from the Government registered and experienced contractors by the Superintending Engineer, Circle-II, Construction Wing, Chennai – 600107, under Two Cover System for the works of **1.Beach front development in Thiruvottriyur 2. Beach front development along with Cycle track at Neelankarai**

Short Tender Notice No.	**07/2023-24 dt. 13.12.2023**
Last date & Time of receipt of E-tenders	**02.01.2024 upto 3.00 pm**
Downloading the tender document by free of cost	**15.12.2023 to 02.01.2024 upto 3.00 pm**
For further details visit website	**http://tntenders.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer
Circle II, C.W,
CMDA, Chennai 107.
DIPR/6652/Tender/2023

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD.,
KOTTAPPATTU, R-614, PUDUKKOTTAI ROAD, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI - 620 023.
TENDER NOTICE

Invited two part sealed Tenders from eligible contractors to engage hired vehicles in Trichy Union for the period of 2 years.

Name of the work	Contract Period	Tender value (Rs. Lakh)	EMD (in Rs.)	Tender No.
Milk Procurement Transport Vehicles	2 Years	1,735.00	12,000	011623/P&I/RMC&BMC/2023-2025
Milk Procurement Team Taxi	2 Years	25.00	12,000	011623/P&I/RMC&BMC/2023-2025
Liquid Nitrogen and Mineral Salt Mixture Distribution Vehicles	2 Years	43.00	12,000	011623/P&I/RMC&BMC/2023-2025

The Tender forms can be downloaded from **tntenders.gov.in** on free of cost from the date of issue of tender notice downloaded from **14.12.2023** onwards. The Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **22.12.2023 at 11.00 AM.** in **Trichy District Co-operative Milk Producers Union, Trichy.** The EMD must be paid only Through online **tntenders.gov.in** and the duly filled tender forms should be submitted on or before **17.01.2024 by 4.00 PM** through online e-Procurement portal **tntenders.gov.in only.** The opening of the tender forms will be on **18.01.2024 by 11.00 AM.** The General Manager has power to accept, reject, or cancel the tender partially or fully. All other details are enclosed with the tender form.

DIPR/ 6651 /TENDER/2023 **DRO/GENERAL MANAGER**

GULBARGA UNIVERSITY
Jnana Ganga Campus, Kalaburagi-585 106, Karnataka,
Phone : 08472-263202, Fax : 08472-263206, E-mail : registrargug@rediffmail.com

GUK/KNV/Tender/AEE-R/2023-24/582 Dated: 12.12.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(TWO COVER SYSTEM) THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY

1) Work Detail : Cleaning & Sweeping of toilets & Clearing of blocked drainage pipe lines at Gulbarga University Campus & PG Centre Campus, Bidar, 2) Amount put for the tender : **Rs. 74,00,000.00**, 3) Account Title: "1006", 4) Eligibility for contractor : As per Tender Notification, 5) Date of receiving of tender forms : As per e-procurement, 6) Tender EMD : Rs. 1,48,000=00, 7) Tender Number:GU/23-24/SE0008, 8) Last date for Submission of Tender: **26.12.2023**, 9) Date of Bid Opening: **28.12.2023**, 10) For More details Please Contact: Registrar, Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi, 11) Website URL: **www.kppp.karanataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Registrar
DIPR/Kalaburagi/553/KSMC&A/2023-24 **Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date and time for opening of tender
1	South West-1	BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/3756/2023-24 Date: 07.12.2023 (3rd Call)	₹ 52,46,028/- / ₹ 1,05,000/-	28.12.2023 upto 4:00 pm	30.12.2023 after 3:00 pm
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (South West-1)		
Office of the Chief Engineer (Project), 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.					
2	Central Stores	BWSSB/EE(CStr)/AEE/JE/STR/500/2023-24 Date: 08.12.2023 (3rd Call)	₹ 56,69,262/- / ₹ 1,13,385/-	02.01.2024 before 4:00 pm	04.01.2024 at 12:00 Noon
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (Central Stores)		
Office of the Engineer in Chief, 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.					
3	UFW-2	BWSSB/EE(UFW)-2/PB/386/2023-24 Date: 11.12.2023 (2nd Call)	₹ 98,95,151/- / ₹ 2,00,000/-	20.12.2023 upto 4:00 pm	21.12.2023 after 04:05 pm
4		BWSSB/EE(UFW)-2/PB/389/2023-24 Date: 11.12.2023 (2nd Call)	₹ 99,48,323/- / ₹ 2,00,000/-		
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (UFW-2)		
Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.					
5	West-2	BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/3418/2023-24 Date: 12.12.2023	1 ₹ 7,90,563/- / ₹ 19,800/-	28.12.2023 upto 03:00 pm	30.12.2023 after 03:00 pm
6			2 ₹ 9,91,075/- / ₹ 24,800/-		
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-2)		
7	North West-1	BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/2810/2023-24 Date: 13.12.2023	₹ 64,61,694/- / ₹ 1,30,000/-	28.12.2023 upto 05:30 pm	30.12.2023 after 03:00 pm
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West-1)		
Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.					
8	East-1	BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2723/2023-24 Date: 13.12.2023	1 ₹ 26,84,063.23 / ₹ 63,345/-	28.12.2023 upto 04:00 pm	30.12.2023 after 05:00 pm
9			2 ₹ 14,69,588/- / ₹ 43,355/-		
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-1)		

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the under signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/MIA/2538/2023-24

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LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE SUB COURT, ERNAKULAM
E.P No. 38 of 2023
in
O.S. No. 253 of 2020
Isha @Isha Beevi, W/o H. Salim,
4E, Chackolas Water Scapes,
Ferry Road, Thevara P.O.,
Ernakulam-682013
Decree Holder
Vs.
1. Ganeshan, S/o Meiyappan, House No. 17, Thiruvikkarasar Street, Rathinapuri, Coimbatore 641027.
2. M/s. Coral Shelters and Builders Pvt. Ltd, represented by its Managing Director Sunil. K. Sreedhar, S/o. K.K. Sreedhar, 94/1, Doddathoguru Village, Electronic City Phase I, Bangalore 560100
Judgment Debtors
NOTICE
The above Execution Petition stands posted to 19.01.2024. You are directed to appear in person or through your Advocate on the said date before this Court, otherwise the case will be heard in your absence.
Dated this the 8th day of December, 2023
Sd/-
Thomas T. Varghese
Counsel for Decree Holder

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE VII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-19)
O.S. No. 7514/2022
Hg: 11/01/2024

Between
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at, Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its head office at and Zonal office at: 4/10, My three Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur main road, Bengaluru-560068 And also having branch at MG Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff
And :
Bengaluru Traders and Another ....Defendants
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendants:
1. Bengaluru Traders No. 935, 2nd Main Road, 4rth Cross, R K Hegde Nagar Post, Near BBMP Waste Collection Bangalore-560077. Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Shaik Salahuddin.
2. Mr. Shaik Salahuddin, S/o. Shaik Mohiddin, Aged About 47 Years, R/at No. 102, 4rth Main, 6th Cross, Swamy Vivekananda Road, Balaji Layout, Near Little Champs School, Bangalore- 560094.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs.10,13,231.37/- along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the VII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-19), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **11/01/2024** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 04th day of December, 2023 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru-01.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-56)
O.S. NO. 6147/2023
Hg: 06/01/2024

Between
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its head office at and branch office at: 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative. Mr. Harish E
...Plaintiff
And
Mr. Chetan Sarmah
...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendant :
Mr. Chetan Sarmah
S/o. Amar, Aged about 34 years, R/at. 18, Flat No. 503, 5th Floor, 16th Main, BTM Layout, 2nd Stage, 12th A Cross, Near Mico Layout Police Station, Bangalore-560076.
PAN No. IVRPS0687H
Ph:7022662886/951396216.
Email-ID:
Saramh990@gmail.com
Office at
EMP ID No.1008019,
ICICI Lombard General Insurance Co. Ltd., No. 9th Floor, The Estate 121 Dickenson Rd, Mahatma Gandhi Rd, Bengaluru- 560042

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 9,65,034.81/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LV Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-56), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **16.01.2024** at **11:00 A.M** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the **05th** day of **December, 2023** at Bangalore.

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A definite shift: Iranian school girls attend a demonstration in front of the former U.S. Embassy in Tehran, commemorating the 30th anniversary of the seizure of the U.S. Embassy by students in 2009. AP

How Islam got tangled in the web of global warfare

Saudi Arabia's decision to promote rigid Wahhabi Islam in the late 1970s has marginalised other tolerant sects in the religion, say writers, and led to radicalisation. The sectarian fault lines of the Muslim world are constantly churning the politics of West Asia

Ziya Us Salam

The Islamic Revolution of Iran shaped the Muslim world like few incidents in history. The monarchy was removed in Iran not through a military coup but a people's movement, inspired by the religious fervour of the Shiite sect of Islam. The repercussions were felt far and wide, ranging from Saudi Arabia in the region, all the way to the U.S.

As Dilip Hiro writes in *Iran Today*, "The 1979 Iranian revolution generated a process that shaped the history of the region to a large extent in the succeeding decades – profoundly affected as it would be by three major wars from 1980-2003 – which in turn impacted directly on the U.S. presidential elections twice, in 1980 and 1992."

It is a point recalled by former Vice President Hamid Ansari too in his book, *Challenges to a Liberal Polity* where he writes, "The Iranian Revolution of 1979 demonstrated the validity of Trotsky's dictum that 'the masses go into a revolution not with a prepared plan of social reconstruction, but with a deep feeling that they cannot endure the old regime'. The Revolution astonished the world because an opposition armed only with slogans, leaflets and audio cassettes overthrew a ruler with formidable national and international resources at his disposal.... Some of the intellectual inspirations came from Sorbonne-trained Islamist Ali Shariati. The leftist groups and trade unions provided the manpower for street demonstrations. The real catalyst, however, was the personality of Ayatollah Khomeini and the network of Shia clergy.... The Iranian Revolution and the foundation of the Islamic Republic provided tremendous impetus to Islamic movements the world over."

Fissures among the faithful

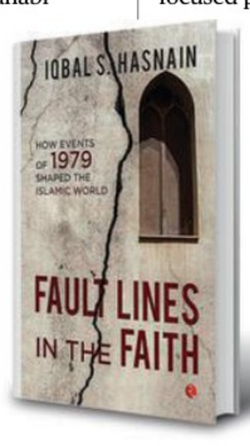
More elaborate is the treatment by noted researcher and Padma Shri awardee Iqbal Syed Hasnain whose latest book, *Fault Lines in the Faith*, lays bare the fissures in the world of the faithful, the deep crevices between Saudi Arabia and Iran since then, the difference in the practice of Islam between say, Afghanistan and Morocco, and lately, the warmth between Qatar and Russia when it comes to West Asia.

In a painstakingly researched, persuasively argued book, Hasnain writes, "The faultlines in the faith began in 1979 – a defining year with some major events, which became catalysts for change in the Middle East, and in the entire Muslim world. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirmed its loyalty to the fundamentalist ideology of Wahabi Salafism after a radical Islamist group questioned the moral legitimacy of the ruling family, and accused it of economic and moral corruption. The Europeans hailed the Islamic Revolution as a 'liberation event', while the USA looked the other way. The literal abandonment of Afghanistan by the Americans after the Soviet retreat left hundreds and thousands of young Islamist fighters stranded and ready to become suicide bombers under the leadership of Osama Bin Laden. It was an unintended consequence of the American support to Afghanistan."

The "unintended consequence" Hasnain talks of was actually a devastating one, as the world witnessed on 9/11, followed by the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq, and the consequent headlining of al-Qaeda and later the ISIS. History repeated itself more recently with the U.S. leaving Afghanistan after two decades of occupation with no democratic process in the works, and the nation in the lap of the Taliban.

The change after 1979

The journey from 1979 to 2023 was slow, gradual but painful as the unity of the world of believers took a series of knocks. Even as Iran slipped into a conservative mode soon enough after the 1979 revolution, Saudi Arabia sought to counter the rise of Shiite Islam with a focused promotion of Wahhabi-Salafi Islam. This often translated into a flow of funds into lesser developed Muslim nations and the indoctrination of youngsters there. As Hasnain analyses, "The Wahhabi influence on the Muslim culture and thinking rose phenomenally following the tripling of oil prices during the early 1970s. Since then, the Saudi government has been spending billions of dollars to promote Wahhabism throughout the world by constructing mosques and setting up madrasas that preach stringent Wahhabi doctrine."



It leaves little space for dialogue or even difference of opinion when it comes to interpretation of Islam.

Ansari provides a solution, stating, "The misconceptions are based on an inability to appreciate 'the difference between absolute (or perfect) iman and limited (or nominal) iman...between major kufr leading to non-Islam and kufr of disobedience."

He sums it up with a Quranic verse wherein the masses are told, "He it is who has sent down to you (Muhammad) the Book; in it are verses of basic or fundamental (meaning); they are the foundation of the Book; others are allegorical. But those in whose hearts is perversity follow the part thereof that is allegorical; seeking discord, and searching for hidden meanings, but no one knows its true meaning except Allah."

Meanwhile, the West continues to paint the Muslim world with the same brush, failing to discern the local niceties, be it is Afghanistan or Palestine, Iran or Sudan.

Back in 2005, Hiro warned, "Since Muslim-majority countries, stretching from Indonesia to Algeria, possess 75 per cent of oil and 45 per cent of natural gas reserves of the world, it is in the interest of the West to see that the attempts being made in Iran to meld political Islam with democracy succeed." One could say it for the Muslim world in general in 2023. Hasnain's book could not have been better timed.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On this day in 1940, the element plutonium was first isolated by researchers at the University of California, Berkeley

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Plutonium has many distinctions. It's the element with the highest _____ _____ to occur naturally. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 2

Plutonium hit international headlines in August 1945 when the U.S. dropped two nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These bombs had two designs, called X and Y. Of these, Y was developed for a bomb using plutonium; in the X design, the plutonium core may have detonated too early. What are the colloquial names of X and Y?

QUESTION 3

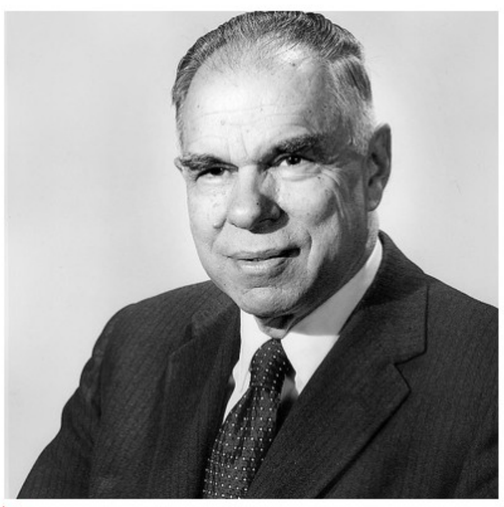
The difficulty with using X (in Q2) arose because the plutonium delivered to the Manhattan Project contained a significant quantity of an isotope that would undergo fission even if a single stray neutron got into it. Which isotope is this?

QUESTION 4

Plutonium is hard to mould into different shapes because it has six _____ even at room pressure (a seventh forms at higher temperature). They have different crystal structures and densities, which means small changes in physical conditions can lead to large changes in a plutonium object's physical properties. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 5

These two robotic machines contain, among other things, 4.8 kg of plutonium-238 dioxide. As the isotope decays, it emits heat. Some of this heat is diverted to thermocouples that supply 110 W of electric power for each machine's instruments. The rest provides 2 kW of thermal power that warms each machine. Name the two machines.



Visual question: Name this American scientist who led the team that first isolated plutonium and shared the chemistry Nobel Prize in 1951. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This country was first sighted on December 13 by this Dutch navigator. **Ans: New Zealand, Abel Tasman**
2. U.S. captured this man through this operation. **Ans: Saddam Hussein; Operation Red Dawn**
3. *Anastasia*, marked the comeback of this Swedish actress. **Ans: Ingrid Bergman**
4. This was a treaty signed in 1921 where these parties agreed to maintain the status quo in the Pacific by respecting the Pacific territories of the other countries. **Ans: Four-Power Treaty; the United States, Great Britain, France and Japan**
5. J.P.M. Prentice discovered this bright nova in the constellation of Hercules. **Ans: DQ Herculis**
Visual: Identify this writer. **Ans: Samuel Johnson**
Early Birds: K. N. Viswanathan| Jyotsna Kaushik| Debarati Kar| M. Suresh Kumar| Karun Yadav
Correction: *In the Daily quiz dated December 12, Salim Durani is incorrectly mentioned to have been born in Afghanistan. He is quoted to have been born in the Khyber pass region in 1934 in what was then, undivided India. The error is regretted.*

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. C. N. Bhagwan, IICT, Hyderabad, wants to know the meaning of 'ginger group'."

"This is a term used generally in politics. A ginger group is one that stirs the party into action. When you bite a piece of ginger, you can't be passive! A ginger group has the same effect on others as the hot spicy root has on its eater. The word 'gingerly' has nothing to do with 'ginger'. 'Gingerly' means 'with great care and caution to avoid causing harm or making a noise'.

He went out in a gingerly manner.

He spoke rather gingerly about what happened.

'Gingerly' is from old French 'gensor', comparative of 'gent', delicate, dainty. 'Ginger' is from Sanskrit 'srngavera'. When you are gingerly, you are cautious; when you are gingery, you are lively, vigorous, pungent."

"Mr. Balaji Sundaram, MREC, Jaipur, wants to know the meaning of "persona non grata'."

" 'Persona grata' is a Latin expression meaning 'an acceptable person'. This is generally used with diplomats. When a diplomat becomes unacceptable to the government he is accredited to, he is no longer persona grata. He becomes persona non grata.

He is persona non grata with the present government.

The 'er' in 'persona' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'India', 'o' is pronounced like the 'o' in 'lone', the 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'India'. The 'o' in 'non' is pronounced like the 'o' in 'got'. The first 'a' in 'grata' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'part' and the second 'a' like the 'a' in 'India'."

"Mr. V. Srinivasan, CIT Nagar, Nandanam, Madras, wants to know the exact meaning of (a) curriculum vitae (b) resume (c) biodata."

"They all mean the same. They refer to 'a short written account of one's education and past employment, used especially when looking for a job'. 'Resume' is American, curriculum vitae or CV is British. 'Biodata' is used in India. I haven't found it in any English dictionary. I don't know who coined it and when we started using it. I should be happy to hear from readers about this word. The word literally means 'information about the life of a person'."

"Several readers want to know the difference between 'tax evasion' and 'tax avoidance'."

"When you evade something, you try to avoid doing what should be done. When you evade taxes, you don't pay taxes that should be paid.

He was prosecuted for evasion of taxes.

When you avoid paying taxes, you take right steps to see that you don't have to pay the necessary taxes. This is done within the framework of the law by making use of the concessions given by the government. You can buy NSS, NSC, UTI, etc. to avoid paying taxes. In tax evasion, there is concealment. In tax avoidance, there is no concealment. Tax avoidance is legal and tax evasion is criminal."

Published in The Hindu on May 22, 1990.

Word of the day

Judder:
shake or vibrate rapidly and intensively

Synonyms: shake, throb

Usage: *The old engine was juddering.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/judderpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈʤʌdə/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

From Page One

NIA raids in city in prison radicalisation case

A file photo of Bengaluru Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara.

The Bengaluru police had earlier registered the case following the seizure of arms and ammunition.

Five persons were initially arrested and their interrogation had led to the arrest of one more, taking the total arrests so far in the case, registered under various sections of the IPC, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and Explosive Substances Act, 1884, to six. The NIA took over the custody of all the six arrested on October 25, 2023.

Investigations by the NIA had revealed that the five had come in contact with LeT member and life convict, T. Nazir, during their imprisonment at the Bengaluru Central Prison, Parappana Agrahara. It was further found that Nazir had radicalised and recruited these individuals for committing terror acts. After their release from the prison, these five accused had conspired to commit terror acts under the leadership of Junaid and on directions from Nazir. Junaid, who was absconding after being accused in a case relating to smuggling of red sandalwood in 2021, was in regular touch with the other accused through encrypted communication platforms.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (December 14, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- Row over hate speech in U.S. universities **bit.ly/rohatespeech**
- The limitations of CCS and CDR and their grip on our future climate **bit.ly/climatefutureccs**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Outdoor wash

A washerman at work in one of the oldest dhobi ghats in Bengaluru at Ulsoor on Wednesday. There are only a few such dhobi ghats in the city now. K. MURALI KUMAR

M.S. Ramaiah's biography released

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A book on the life and achievements of M.S. Ramaiah, founder, Gokula Education Foundation (Ramaiah Institutions) titled "Ramaiyanam" authored by journalist Ramakrishna Upadhya was released on Tuesday.

According to a release from Ramaiah Group of Institutions, speaking after launching the book, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said such books guide future generations.

"It is important that we learn from the past and use it in the future. At present, the lack of vision is a major problem in our country and books on such achievers will help build a vision for the future," he said.

Former Lokayukta Justice N. Santosh Hegde said biographies of such achievers should be a part of education. "There have been hundreds of scams over the last few decades and the country has lost enormous amounts of money to it. The root cause for all of it is the greed among people. Ramaiah, who came from a poor family, has taught us how money can be made through the right means," he added.

Govt. to mull over naming airports after Rayanna, Chennamma

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government on Wednesday assured the Legislative Assembly of considering a proposal to name the Hubballi Airport after Sangolli Rayanna and the Belagavi Airport after Veera Rani Kittur Chennamma.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil offered this assurance while replying to a request during Zero Hour by members cutting across party affiliations.

Health Dept. has cracked down on nearly 1,500 'fake' doctors since 2007

'Most of them would have obtained degree certificates from fake medical universities in other States through correspondence courses'

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

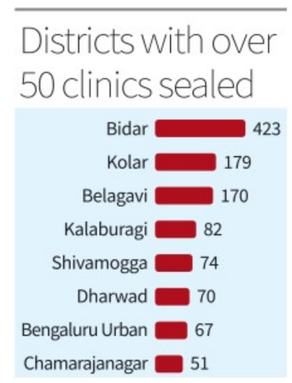
The State Health Department has sealed clinics and laboratories run by 1,436 'fake' doctors (quacks) since 2007 till November 30.

These include practitioners of Allopathy, Homoeopathy, Ayurveda, and Naturopathy, Unani, and Siddha, who do not have the necessary qualifications to practise medicine and are running clinics and laboratories illegally putting patients' health at risk.

Officials said many claimed to hold a degree in a branch of medicine and even operated in well-established nursing homes as consultants apart from running their own clinics.

Most of them would have obtained degree certificates from fake medical universities in other States through correspondence courses and have been in the business for years, officials said.

According to the district-wise break up collated by the department, Bidar tops the list with 423 fake doctors. Bidar is followed by Kolar and Belagavi



where 179 and 170 facilities respectively - run by such fake doctors - have been sealed. Officials alleged that some of them have also been involved in female foeticide.

Vivek Dorai, State Deputy Director (Medical Acts), told *The Hindu* that around 400 more facilities were sealed this month after Health Commissioner Randeep D. directed District Health Officers (DHOs) to enforce the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act more effectively.

This is in the wake of the recent unearthing of a sex determination racket across Bengaluru, Mandya, and Mysuru districts.

"According to the KPME Act, all private medical institutions should mandatorily get a KPME registration. However, it has been noticed that fake doctors who do not have the necessary qualifications to practise medicine are running clinics and laboratories illegally," he said.

"As per Section 19 of the KPME amendment Act, 2017, any person who establishes or runs an unregistered private medical institution is liable to imprisonment for a term of up to three years and a fine of ₹1 lakh. While we have information about such practitioners, implementation is challenging as we have limited powers to initiate action. While their clinics are sealed and equipment seized, they usually come out unscathed due to lack of evidence. This is mainly because of the local community support," he said.

Dr. Dorai said although there is a proposal to put up black boards displaying 'fake' in front of clinics and facilities found to be unregistered, there is no provision for this under the KPME Act. "We will have to get this provision included through an amendment and it is under discussion," he added.

ಆಳ್ವಾಸ್ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಾನ (ರಿ.)
ಮೂಡುಬಿದಿರೆ
ದ.ಕ. 574227
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

ರಾಜರ್ಷಿ ಡಾ. ಡಿ. ವೀರೇಂದ್ರ ಹೆಗ್ಗಡೆಯವರ
ಶುಭಾಶೀರ್ವಾದದೊಂದಿಗೆ

ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ದೇಹತ್ಯಾಗ ಮಾಡಿದ
ವೀರಯೋಧ ಕ್ಯಾಪ್ಟನ್ ಎಂ.ವಿ. ಪ್ರಾಂಜಲ್ ಅವರಿಗೆ
ಅರ್ಪಣೆ

29ನೇ ವರ್ಷದ
ಆಳ್ವಾಸ್ ವಿರಾಸತ್ 2023
ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಉತ್ಸವ

ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 14ರಿಂದ 17ರ ವರೆಗೆ
ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ವನಜಾಕ್ಷಿ ಕೆ. ಶ್ರೀಪತಿ ಭಟ್ ಬಯಲುರಂಗ ಮಂದಿರ,
ವಿವೇಕಾನಂದ ನಗರ, ಪುತ್ತಿಗೆ, ಮೂಡುಬಿದಿರೆ,
ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ

14.12.2023 ಗುರುವಾರ
ಉದ್ಘಾಟನಾ ಸಮಾರಂಭ

ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ವನಜಾಕ್ಷಿ ಕೆ. ಶ್ರೀಪತಿ ಭಟ್ ಬಯಲು ರಂಗಮಂದಿರ, ವಿವೇಕಾನಂದ ನಗರ, ಪುತ್ತಿಗೆ

ಗೌರವಾನ್ವಿತ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರಿಗೆ ಗೌರವ ರಕ್ಷೆ — ಸಂಜೆ 5:30
ಸಭಾಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ — ಸಂಜೆ 5:45-6:30
ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ : ಗೌರವಾನ್ವಿತ ಡಾ. ಥಾವರ್ ಚಂದ್ ಗೆಹ್ಲೋಟ್, ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು : ರಾಜರ್ಷಿ ಡಾ. ಡಿ. ವೀರೇಂದ್ರ ಹೆಗ್ಗಡೆ, ಧರ್ಮಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಶ್ರೀ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಧರ್ಮಸ್ಥಳ

ಸಂಜೆ 6:35 – ರಾತ್ರಿ 8:00
ಆಳ್ವಾಸ್ ವಿರಾಸತ್-2023 | ಭವ್ಯ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆ
100ಕ್ಕಿಂತಲೂ ಅಧಿಕ ದೇಶೀಯ ಜಾನಪದ ಕಲಾತಂಡಗಳ 3000ಕ್ಕೂ ಮಿಕ್ಕಿದ ಕಲಾವಿದರಿಂದ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ ಭವ್ಯ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆ.

ರಾತ್ರಿ 8:05 – 9:00
ವೇದಘೋಷಗಳು, ಭಜನ್‌ಗಳು, ಪುಷ್ಪಪಲ್ಲಕ್ಕಿಗಳು, ಮಂಗಳವಾದ್ಯಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ವಿಘ್ನನಿವಾರಕ ವಿನಾಯಕ, ಸರಸ್ವತಿ, ಶ್ರೀಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ, ಹನುಮಂತ, ಶ್ರೀರಾಮ, ಶ್ರೀಕೃಷ್ಣಾದಿ ಆರೂಢ ದೇವರ
ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ರಥ ಸಂಚಲನ ಮತ್ತು ರಥಾರತಿ

ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು

15.12.2023 ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ
ಸಂಜೆ 5:45 : ದೀಪ ಪ್ರಜ್ವಲನ (ಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ)
5:55 : ಕಲಾವಿದರಿಗೆ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಸ್ವಾಗತ
6:00–8:00 : ಗಾನ ವೈಭವ
ಬೆನ್ನಿ ದಯಾಲ್, ಖ್ಯಾತ ಚಲನಚಿತ್ರ ಹಿನ್ನಲೆ ಗಾಯಕರು
ರಾತ್ರಿ 8:00–9:00 : ಆಳ್ವಾಸ್ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ವೈಭವ

16.12.2023 ಶನಿವಾರ
ಸಂಜೆ 5:45 : ದೀಪ ಪ್ರಜ್ವಲನ (ಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ)
5:55 : ಕಲಾವಿದರಿಗೆ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಸ್ವಾಗತ
6:00–8:00 : ಭಾವ ಲಹರಿ
ಶ್ರೇಯಾ ಘೋಷಾಲ್, ಖ್ಯಾತ ಚಲನಚಿತ್ರ ಹಿನ್ನಲೆ ಗಾಯಕರು
ರಾತ್ರಿ 8:00–9:00 : ಆಳ್ವಾಸ್ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ವೈಭವ

17.12.2023 ರವಿವಾರ
ಸಂಜೆ 5:15–06:15 : ಆಳ್ವಾಸ್ ವಿರಾಸತ್ –2023 ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ ಪ್ರದಾನ
ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ ಪುರಸ್ಕೃತರು : ಡಾ. ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಂಜುನಾಥ್
: ಡಾ. ಪ್ರವೀಣ್ ಗೋಡ್ಖಿಂಡಿ
: ಶ್ರೀ ವಿಜಯ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್
6:30–07:15 : ತಾಳ–ವಾದ್ಯ–ಸಂಗೀತ
ಡಾ. ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಂಜುನಾಥ್
ಡಾ. ಪ್ರವೀಣ್ ಗೋಡ್ಖಿಂಡಿ
ಶ್ರೀ ವಿಜಯ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಮತ್ತು ಬಳಗ
ರಾತ್ರಿ 7:30–9:30 : ಸಂಗೀತ ರಸಸಂಜೆ
ಶ್ರೀ ವಿಜಯ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್, ಖ್ಯಾತ ಚಲನಚಿತ್ರ ಹಿನ್ನಲೆ ಗಾಯಕರು
9:30–10:15 : ಆಳ್ವಾಸ್ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ವೈಭವ

ಆಳ್ವಾಸ್ ವಿರಾಸತ್ 2023ರ ವಿಶೇಷ ಆಕರ್ಷಣೆ
ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 09:00 ರಿಂದ ರಾತ್ರಿ 10:00ರ ವರೆಗೆ
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ಸ್ಥಳ: ಮುಂಡ್ರುದೆಗುತ್ತು ಕೆ. ಅಮರನಾಥ ಶೆಟ ಟ್ಟಿ (ಕೃಷಿಸಿರಿ ವೇದಿಕೆ) ಆವರಣ, ವಿದ್ಯಾಗಿರಿ, ಮೂಡುಬಿದಿರೆ
ಉಚಿತ ಪ್ರವೇಶ

ನಿಮ್ಮ ಆಗಮನದ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ
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INBRIEF

Cong. MLA sports black shirt in a symbolic protest

Congress MLA from Channagiri Basavaraju V. Shivaganga on Wednesday turned up at the Assembly wearing a black shirt to protest against the alleged apathy of the Backward Classes Welfare Department. The first-time MLA, whose question came up during the Question Hour, expressed dissatisfaction over the Minister's reply that all the applicants who had sought loans from the department had not been chosen due to paucity of funds. "The department has money to organise public conventions. But when it comes to providing benefits to poor people, they cite shortage of funds," he said.

Vijayendra greets Yatnal on his birthday

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra has greeted party senior colleague and political bête noire Basanagouda Patil Yatnal on his birthday.

Taking to social media on Wednesday, Mr. Vijayendra described him as a popular MLA.

It may be noted that Mr. Yatnal has been on a criticism spree against both Mr. Vijayendra and his father. His latest attack had come in a veiled form on Tuesday in the floor of the Assembly.

'Govt. will try to credit ₹2,000 as initial drought relief from this week'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The government will try to credit ₹2,000 as initial drought relief to the bank accounts of farmers starting from Challakere taluk in Chitradurga district this week, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told the Legislative Council on Wednesday.

Replying to the debate over drought situation under Rule 68, the Minister said that 115 villages and four wards in the State now faced drinking water issues.

The government has asked the district administrations to be ready by finalising bids for tanker water supply to problematic villages and wards, within 24 hours. Bids have already been invited in many districts.

He said that the government has identified 6,237 villages and 914 wards as vulnerable to drought based on history. He said that 3,836 private borewells have been identified in the State for drawing water in case needed.

The Minister reiterated that the government has sought ₹18,171 crore from Union government for drought relief to which the Centre has so far not responded.

The government has also appealed to the Centre to increase the man-days under MNREGA from mandatory 100 days to 150 days to prevent the migration of labourers from villages.

The Opposition BJP members said that the State is pointing fingers at the Centre for its failure to tackle drought. BJP member Kota Srinivas Poojary demanded the government to release ₹10,000 crore for drought-relief works. Shouting slogans against the government later the BJP members walked out.

Breach of security in Parliament leads to war of words in legislature

Congress members say this would have blown up into a bigger issue if a non-Bharatiya Janata Party Lok Sabha member had provided the pass to the intruders and not Pratap Simha

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

A discussion taken up to condemn the Parliament security breach incident on Wednesday turned heated in the Legislative Assembly as the Congress and the Opposition BJP clashed over the issuing of passes to intruders from the BJP MP's office. While members, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, condemned the incident, they felt that legislators should be choosy in issuing legislature passes.

The House became stormy after Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said, "Prathap Simha is an intelligent man. I do not know why he gave the passes. Opposition leader (R. Ashok) should take responsibility and tell him." He also asked what was the Opposition leader's stand on the breach of security in the Parliament. Immediately, first time legislator Nayana Motamma asked, "What if this had happened from the non-BJP MP office or a MP representing minority community?"

'Politicising issue'

Mr. Ashok retorted, "I do not know what Mr. Shivakumar is politicising. His brother is also MP. What if the incident had happened based on the letter issued by him? This is not right."

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge also joined in and said that if the incident had happened based on a letter given by a Congress MP, the BJP members would not keep quiet. Soon Congress members from the back benches too joined in, resulting in chaos, forcing Speaker U.T. Khader to adjourn the business. When Congress members tried to raise the issue soon after the House reconvened, Mr. Khader said, "Why are you wasting time instead of passing the Bills? We give passes liberally. However, be strict in issuing passes in future." He also said that the PAs of legislators are powerful and if marshals try to question them, the matter is taken back to legislators.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Home Minister G. Parameshwara, and Minister for Information Technology and Biotechnology Priyank Kharge in the Legislative Assembly at the Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Earlier case in State legislature

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

In July 2023, during the Budget session at the Vidhana Soudha of the new government led by Siddaramaiah, Karnataka Legislative Assembly had a security lapse when a man loitered around the Assembly hall and sat in the seat marked for JD(S) member Karemma Nayak. He walked towards Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and wished him before being whisked away.

Ashok gets little support

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok was left to defend the BJP as the ruling party members launched an attack on the security breach issue.

While he argued vociferously against the attack unleashed by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, none of his party colleagues tried to defend. Much later, Araga Jnanendra and S. Suresh Kumar joined him.

PM should answer: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Condemning the incident, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said, "The incident serves us a warning. It is better to issue passes to whom we know and take precaution."

In an earlier statement, Mr. Siddaramaiah sought to put the onus of answering questions related to the security on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The Parliament building, which is the heart of the nation, is provided with more stringent security than any other place or building. Yet, how did these youths manage to enter the Parliament with smoke canisters? Were any insiders involved in this act? Could there be any involvement of external forces behind the youths' actions?"

Eight Bills passed, including those on BBMP and recruitment exam

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Wednesday passed eight Bills, including The Karnataka Public Examination (Measures for Prevention of Corruption and Unfair Means in Recruitment) Bill, 2023, that seeks to prevent malpractice in recruitment examination, and The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and Certain Other Law (Amendment) Bill, 2023, that protects the State from returning about ₹1,712 crore to the developers.

Money collected

Initiating the discussion on the BBMP Bill, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that while ₹1,712 crore has been collected between 2015-2023 as ground rent, ₹688 crore is yet to be collected. "Because there was a legal lacunae, the amendment is being moved. Otherwise, we have to repay the money that we have already spent."

Stating that the amount fixed for license fee, ground rent, completion report and commencement fee among others has been enhanced, former Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan said that the fees come to about 7% of the construction cost. "Fee is linked to the building and not the size of the land. It has to be reduced."

BJP member S. Suresh Kumar also pointed out that instead of fixing a specific rate, the government has fixed an upper limit, giving scope for discretionary powers. In response, Mr. Shivakumar said that there is no proposal to increase any fee, and that the government is considering to reduce it. "We will consider the suggestion when rules are framed."

In the light of the police sub-inspector recruitment scam that rocked the State in 2022, the House passed The Karnataka Public Examination (Measures for Prevention of Corruption and Unfair Means in Recruitment) Bill 2023 making offences cognisable, non-bailable and non-compoundable. The offences attract imprisonment ranging from 5 years to 12 years and a fine ranging from ₹10 lakh to ₹10 crore.

To prevent diversion

The House passed The Karnataka Scheduled Castes Sub Allocation and Tribal Sub Allocation (Planning, Allocation and Utilisation of Financial Resources) (Amendment) Bill, 2023 that seeks to remove Section 7 D that currently allows deemed expenditure.

The House also passed The Karnataka High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2023, Sri Renuka Yellamma Kshetra Tourism Development Board Bill, 2023, The Karnataka Civil Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2023, The Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

Proposal on tax withdrawn

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government on Wednesday withdrew the proposed 10% lifetime tax on electric vehicles whose cost exceeded ₹20 lakh. The provision was part of The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2023, which was passed in the Legislative Assembly. BJP members Araga Jnanendra and C.N. Ashwath Narayan said that the government should withdraw the proposed 10 % LTT on EV because the vehicles were less polluting and saved foreign exchange.

Do justice to winter session in NK by taking up irrigation projects: Vijayendra

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Bharatiya Janata Party State president and MLA B.Y. Vijayendra has urged the Congress government to do justice to the purpose of holding the winter session in the city of Belagavi by taking up 13 irrigation projects of North Karnataka at a cost of ₹5,700 crore for which the erstwhile BJP government had given clearance.

"The previous BJP government had given sanction to 13 irrigation projects in North Karnataka region to be taken up at a cost of ₹5,700 crore. I request the Congress government to take up these projects which would contribute to the development of this region," Mr. Vijayendra said, while participating in a debate on the issues related to North Karnataka region in the Legislative Assembly on December 15.

Cane farmers

Expressing concern over the plight of sugarcane farmers, he urged the government to provide an incentive of ₹25,000 to ₹30,000 per acre.

He pointed out that the Northern region of the State contributed immensely to sugar sector. Sugarcane growers contribute a revenue of about ₹60,000 crore a year to the government, he said, adding that the current compensation was not huge when compared with their contribution.

He also sought a compensation of ₹45,000 to ₹50,000 per acre for grape growers.

Cattle feed

Taking exception to the government increasing cattle feed prices at a time when farmers are gripped by drought, he taunted, "This government cannot see though it has eyes and cannot hear though it has ears and lacks compassion though it has heart."

Maintaining that the Union government cannot release drought relief assistance share till the State government releases its share, he urged the Siddaramaiah government to immediately release its share.

11 cities in State qualify to introduce electric buses under PM-eBus Sewa Scheme

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government told the Legislative Council on Wednesday that 11 cities in the State have qualified to introduce electric buses under the PM-eBus Sewa Scheme.

The cities are Mysuru, Mangaluru, Davangere, Shivamogga, Tumakuru, Belagavi, Hubballi, Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Ballari, and Vijayapura.

The three State-owned transport corporations have together submitted a demand for 795 electric buses. FILE PHOTO

Total demand

While replying to a starred question by member K.A. Thippeswamy during the Question Hour, Minister for Transport and Muzrai Ramalinga Reddy said that the three State-owned transport corporations under whose jurisdiction the cities exist have together submitted a demand for 795 e-buses under the scheme.

Of them the KSRTC has submitted a demand for 350 buses as 100 buses each for Mysuru and Mangaluru and 50 buses each for Davangere, Shivamogga and Tumakuru.

The NWKRTC has demanded 210 buses as 100 buses for Belagavi and 110 buses together for Hubballi-Dharwad. The KKRTC wants 235 buses as 100 buses for Kalaburagi, 55 buses for Bellari and 80 buses for Vijayapura, the Minister said adding that the proposals received by the corporations are under review.

Mr. Reddy said that as per the Union government guidelines, BMTC is not eligible to introduce buses under the same scheme.

Mobility infrastructure

As per the Union government, the scheme has been introduced to boost India's electric mobility infrastructure. The scheme provides support for the deployment of 10,000 electric buses in 169 cities in the country through a Central outlay of ₹ 20,000 crores, on public-private partnership model. The scheme would have an estimated cost of ₹ 57,613 crore, out of which support of ₹ 20,000 crore will be provided by the Union government.

The scheme will support bus operations for 10 years. The scheme will cover cities of three lakh and above population as per census 2011 including all the capital cities of Union Territories, North Eastern Region and hill States.

Under this scheme, priority will be given to cities having no organized bus service.

BJP boycotts Question Hour in Council over Zameer Ahmed's issue

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Opposition BJP in the Legislative Council boycotted the Question Hour by walking out on Wednesday, demanding that Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan should either resign or seek an apology for his remarks on the Legislative Assembly Speaker during the Telangana election campaign recently.

However, they returned to the House during the Zero Hour and continued to attend the session. The BJP members were not satisfied when Mr. Khan told the House that he did not disrespect the Assembly Speaker's Chair and would not do so in future too.

"I have respect to the Chair," he said.

Floor Leader of the House N.S. Boseraju said the matter was in no way connected to the Legislative Council and appealed to the Chair not to allow any discussion on the same during the Question Hour. He said the BJP was unnecessarily disrupting the session.

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
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(Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Two Cover System Tenders are invited through kppp by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D, Bangalore Urban, Viveka Yojane & Varga-1 Grants Works. The work details can be obtained from the KPPP Website. The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before: **02-01-2024 upto 4.00 PM.** Further details can be obtained from web site at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

R Krishnaswamy (92), Retired Senior Reporter, The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 13-12-2023. Address: Flat BG3, Journalists Colony, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai- 600041. Contact: 94440 78487.

SAD DEMISE

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(Retd) DGM / Training & Development
BHEL-Trichy & Haridwar
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An LPG switch to iron out Istriwalas' woes

The Istri Project by Udhyam Foundation has helped more than 5,300 ironing vendors switch from using coal iron boxes to LPG boxes, resulting in an average 25% increase in revenue

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Narasimha Moorthi is engaged in cloth ironing in Vijayanagar.

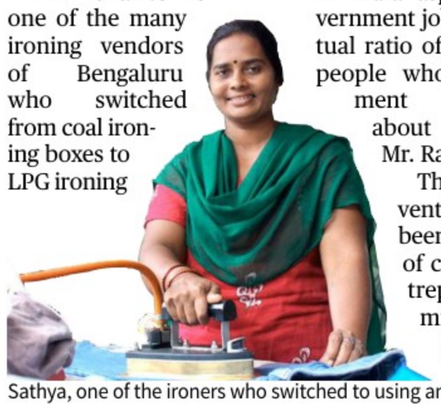
Charles and his ironing cart are stationed in an upmarket residential area near Halasuru. A few clothes have been neatly ironed, folded and stacked near a corner of the cart. A customer stops by to enquire about her clothes, he guarantees delivery by the next morning.

"Earlier I used a coal iron box which at times led to trouble. The ember would fall on expensive clothes and create holes in them, and the customer would be infuriated. There have been instances of customers threatening to go to cops if I don't pay the full price of the damaged garment," he says.

A few months back Mr. Charles switched to an LPG iron box, and things have changed for the good since then for him. It's cost-effective, convenient and gives a better finish to ironed clothes, so much so that customers are now asking for clothes pressed by LPG iron box, he says. His earnings have improved from around ₹20,000 earlier to more than ₹30,000 a month now.

"If I could iron 100 clothes using a coal iron box in a day, the LPG box allows me to do 150. It's also less cumbersome. The heat can be controlled, the instrument can be switched off if I must move away from the cart and it doesn't produce smoke and leave stains on my hand unlike a coal iron box," he says.

Mr. Charles is one of the many ironing vendors of Bengaluru who switched from coal ironing boxes to LPG ironing boxes in the last few years as part of a campaign called Istri Project by Bengaluru based non-profit Udhyam Foundation.


Sathya, one of the ironers who switched to using an LPG iron box.

According to the NGO, across Bengaluru and Chennai, the campaign has successfully converted more than 5,300 ironing vendors from using coal iron boxes to LPG boxes resulting in an average 25% increase in revenue for the vendors.

Entrepreneurial mindsets

Udhyam Foundation was founded by Mekin Maheshwari, former CPO at Flipkart, in 2017. Krishnan Ranganathan, who joined the same year as cofounder, notes that the organisation was conceived with the idea of finding solutions to the largescale unemployment problem in the country.

"We still have a very large percentage of people in India aspiring for government jobs. But the actual ratio of applicants to people who get government jobs is about 1:300," says Mr. Ranganathan.

The NGO's interventions have been with the idea of creating an entrepreneurial mindset among youth as well as existing nano entrepreneurs. The programme named Udhyam Vyapaar aims to work with entrepreneurs from lesser privileged socio-economic backgrounds earning less than ₹25,000 a month.

"We have been operating by running a bunch of experiments," says Mr. Ranganathan who runs the programme.

The team experiments with various potential solutions to see what creates income uplift and makes the *vyaparees* more entrepreneurial in behaviour.

The Istri project

The most successful experiment so far has been the Istri Project. Anybody who converted from the coal iron box to LPG saw an income increase due to both revenue increase and cost reduction, says Mr. Ranganathan.

The team started with a small pilot in Bengaluru during which they converted around 300 people from using coal to LPG. The Covid period forced a pause, and the project was scaled up in the second half of 2021.

But it was not without challenges.

"Before we started this project, the retailers were stocking only coal boxes as there was demand only for coal and electric boxes," says Mr. Ranganathan.

So, the team had to do a few things in parallel.

Mr. Charles's earnings have improved from around ₹20,000 earlier to more than ₹30,000 a month after using LPG iron box.

One was to create awareness on LPG boxes among the ironing vendors. Parallelly, they had to work with the manufacturers to make more boxes as well as the retailers to nudge them to start stocking LPG boxes.

Reluctant vendors

Sreedharan S., an ironing vendor who works near Cooke town, was one of the earliest to convert to LPG under the Istri project. He remembers how sceptical he initially was about using an LPG box.

"I used to have fears about accidents and cylinder bursts since it works on gas. So, I was weary of switching then," he remembers.

Another hindrance was the cost.

While a 6.5 to 7 KG brass coal iron box could cost between ₹3,000 to 7,000, the starting price of a 6.5 KG brass LPG iron box is around ₹6,000. The ironing vendor who earns an average of Rs 15,000 a month would not want to invest almost half of their monthly income in a completely new product.

So, the NGO conducted awareness camps and introduced a subsidy programme where 50% of the product cost would be subsidised through CSR. This worked and a greater number of vendors started switching to LPG.

But there were still challenges. For example, Mr. Sreedharan, who switched to LPG boxes about six years back, remembers it was difficult to find replacements for things like pins and regulators for the LPG box then.

Krishnan Ranganathan and Mekin Maheshwari.

"The next phase was market transformation. Most ironing vendors replace their coal iron box every three to four years. When they come for replacement, if the retailer can introduce them to the alternative that is LPG, then that helps. So, we worked with the retailers," says Mr. Ranganathan.

The NGO has trained vendors on regular maintenance of the boxes and established after-sales networks in Bengaluru and Chennai with the help of gas agencies so that when a vendor approaches the agency to buy a cylinder, they can also get the box serviced or repaired. Mr. Ranganathan notes that in some areas, the ironing vendors themselves have volunteered to be trained and provide servicing for others in their area.

Cleaner alternative

Replacing coal iron boxes with LPG boxes can make significant environmental impact. According to the NGO, the net difference of carbon dioxide released between a coal and LPG box is about 760 kg per year. That is equivalent to the carbondioxide absorbed by 76 trees.

The switch also helps to save half a ton of coal per year per vendor and the Udhyam team claims to have reduced around 2,500 tonnes of coal usage annually with their intervention.

With a survey done in Chennai recently showing that 97% of those who switched to LPG have stuck with it, the team is planning to scale up the project nationally with the help of partners. "My personal aspiration is to get to the first city of India which becomes completely free of coal boxes," says Mr. Ranganathan, who adds that the team is also trying to run a citizen movement.

"Can citizens across India come forward to sponsor their local *istri vyapari* to convert? We recently launched a citizen movement pilot in Bengaluru. We have worked out various touchpoints such as RWAs, organizations like Rotary Club and also directly through social media and people we know."

Onboarding street food sellers

After the success of the Istri project, the team is now looking at a bunch of other experiments.

One aims to onboard street food vendors to restaurant aggregator platforms like Swiggy and Zomato. The pilot has commenced in Bengaluru. Having seen success with about 15 vendors so far, the team plans to expand it to about 80-100 vendors in the city and extend to other cities later.

Another pilot project in rural Indore works with people in eight to nine business segments including kirana stores, garments and textiles, biopesticide manufacturing and so on.

"We are trying to see what kind of solution works for each business," says Mr. Ranganathan.

In the garment business, the team has been connecting the sellers directly to the central cloth market association. This helps to eliminate intermediaries and results in higher profits for the sellers.

When it comes to biopesticides the NGO has been working with groups of women who manufacture it. The pesticides filled in used plastic bottles were earlier sold to farmers for ₹20 per bottle.

"We found that similar pesticides are sold anywhere between ₹250 to 800 in the market. So we tied up with a nearby college. Students came on board to work with the women. Now it is sold for about ₹100 in the market and gives them a profit margin of ₹50 per bottle," Mr. Ranganathan says.

Ekya student's 'Tribali' project gets limelight on the international stage

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Niharika Nair

Niharika Nair, an aspiring Human Rights activist and a part of the 1M1B (1 Million for 1 Billion) programme has advocated for Marginal Communities with Project Tribali. Through the project, she addresses the unnoticed human rights violations faced by India's unrecognised tribal communities.

1M1B (1 Million for 1 Billion) engages and enables youth to become future-ready problem solvers creating real-world impact.

Niharika is a grade 11 student of Ekya School. Through this project, she has impacted over a thousand families, helped them in securing essential documents, organised health camps, and promoted sustainable initiatives. Her revolutionising campaign has directly impacted 1,000 families across Kerala and Karnataka. She also organised a tree-planting initiative in Coorg, said a release.

"Within India's 461 Scheduled Tribes spread across all states, there are approximately 174 tribes that remain unrecognised, thereby denying them access to fundamental necessities such as land, water, and shelter."

"These communities face discrimination, harassment, and exploitation, and they experience alarmingly low levels of literacy and high mortality rates, consistently residing below the poverty line," said Niharika.

Niharika initiated Project Tribali as part of the 1M1B Future Leaders program. She presented her project titled 'Tribali' at the 1M1B Youth Summit.

The summit was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on November 30, 2023. This marked her first time addressing a worldwide audience.

An exhibition of handmade, naturally dyed clothing

Around 12-13 artisan groups from all over India will be part of this exhibition

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India Handmade Collective (IHMC), a not-for-profit volunteer-based social enterprise that works with artisan and weaver communities across India, will be holding an exhibition showcasing naturally dyed, handmade products.

"We started this initiative during the COVID," says Mahima Thangappan, the coordinator for IHMC, adding that the aim was to provide a forum for artisans all over India to showcase their products.

Eco-friendly creations

According to her, eco-consciousness was a vital aspect of product creation.

"We wanted to work on environmentally friendly clothing as well as support livelihoods," she says, pointing out that all the clothing on display is handspun, hand woven and naturally dyed. "We have kept it as eco-friendly and sustainable as possible," she says.

From the India Handmade Collective Exhibition.

After all, as she points out, synthetic dyes are one of the biggest pollutants of our ecosystem. Natural dyes, on the other hand, are more environmentally friendly and do not pollute waterways and damage the environment. "They have been used by various civilizations over centuries to dye materials, including clothing," says the event's release, adding that with the advent of synthetic dyes, some of these techniques are getting lost. "Passionate Artisans are trying to revive whatever possible."

Around 12-13 artisan groups from all over India, including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, will be part of this exhibition.

What is on display

Products on display include ethically sourced cotton, home décor, household utility items, natural and chemical-free cosmetics, and jewellery, among other things. And yes, in keeping with the overall sustainability theme, "It will be appreciated if visitors can come with their shopping bags," says Mahima.

The exhibition will be held at Pearl Academy, Residency Road between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. between 15-17 December. Call 7305127412 for more details.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 14, 1973

Dikshit, PM Call to End Border Agitation

New Delhi, Dec. 13: The Union Minister, Mr. Uma Shankar Dikshit, to-day promised to expedite a central decision on the Maharashtra-Karnataka boundary dispute, and he was joined by the leaders of various political parties in the Lok Sabha in an appeal to the people of the two States to give up their present agitation.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. also joined the members in their appeal. "I associate myself with the appeal," she said.

Mr. Dikshit said: I am here to give the assurance that we (in the Centre) are seized to announce its decision.

Firing in three Karnataka towns: One Killed

Bangalore, Dec. 13: Police opened fire in three places - Mudhol, Rabkavi and Jamkhandi in Bijapur district - to-day resulting in the death of one person and injuries to two others as violence continued unabated as a sequel to the alleged attacks on Kannadigas in Maharashtra.

A large number of people had been coming into Bijapur district from Maharashtra for the last three days following alleged attacks on Kannadigas. A 2,000 strong crowd stormed a cement pipe factory and made attempts to set it on fire. Official report spoke of most of the policemen, including an assistant commissioner, receiving grievous injuries. A sub-inspector was removed to Bijapur Hospital in an unconscious condition. A car and a jeep were set ablaze.

CITYBEATS

Shop for a cause

ON GOING
Serenity, Jaymahal Extension, has an ongoing sale of crafts and sustainable products, which are on sale for a discount for the festive season. According to the boutique, the current pricing just covers the price of the product; the store hopes these products find a good home.
The sale will be on till January 6. Call 41279127.

All things natural

DECEMBER 15 TO 17
The India Handmade Collective (IHMC) will present an exhibition of exclusive natural dyes, handmade clothing and artisanal products. IHMC is a not-profit, volunteer-based social enterprise, set up for the support of artisans and weaving communities.
At Pearl Academy, Residency Road. Visit indiahandmadecollective.com

Far from the madding crowd

ON GOING
Niro, Bengaluru's latest restaurant, offers you a scenic ambiance where you can enjoy drinks watching the sun set by the lake. This rooftop oasis is situated atop the Country Inn and Suites Hotel alongside Nagavara Lake. The menu includes dishes like mushroom on *kori rotti*, lamb shanks, lemony prawn, peas risotto and more.

Acid Arab
December 16, 5 pm onwards
GYLT, Hennur
Tickets: ₹899 onwards via BookMyShow

French-Algerian act Acid Arab returns to India this week and is stopping by Bengaluru as part of a multi-city tour. Best known for their hypnotic blend of Middle Eastern music with acid house and techno production, this electronic group often tours as a duo and recently released 'Habaytak,' adding to their discography which includes songs such as 'Leila', 'La Hafla', 'Mogador' and more. At their Bengaluru stop at GYLT, they will be supported by producer-DJ Beat Inspector and electronic artist Sharnea.

OnePlus AI Music Festival
December 17, 3 pm onwards
Manpho Convention Centre, Nagavara
Tickets: ₹3,999 onwards, via Insider.in

The inaugural edition of OnePlus AI Music Festival, which was launched soon after the OnePlus AI Music Studio was introduced for music makers around the world, has become yet another addition to the already packed live music calendar around the country.

In Bengaluru alone, there are several music festivals and gigs taking place, but the OnePlus AI Music Festival brings together an international lineup including headliner DJ-producer Afrojack, Swedish artist Diorange and Indian artistes such as Ritviz, Lost Stories, Kayan and Progressive Brothers. That is plenty of EDM to keep fans dancing all day and night.

Mali, Tarang Joseph, Mr. Kev x Yellow
December 15, 9 pm onwards
Fandom at Gilly's Redefined, Koramangala
Tickets: ₹799 onwards, plus ₹500 cover charge at the door via Insider.in

Chennai-origin, Mumbai-based singer-songwriter Mali aka Maalavika Manoj has been traveling the country on a DIY tour promoting her latest synth-pop inspired new song 'Semi Automatic Butane'. The artiste will be joined by local singer-songwriter Tarang Joseph, as well as Chennai artiste Mr. Kev and Joshua David Raj aka Yellow as supporting acts that night. Mali, who is also part of Tamil label Think Music's next release 'Anniku Raathiri' (on December 15), is making new moves with this self-organised run of shows. A description for the concert says, "As she concludes this eventful musical year, she embarks on a nationwide tour, bringing her dynamic audio visual artistry to stages across the country and cities she's never travelled to before."

GIG GUIDE

Pop and lock

This weekend, groove to the electrifying roundup brought to you by international and local artistes

Anurag Tagat

Yugm, Sridev Ramesh and Vedant Chauhan
December 17, 8 pm onwards
Fandom at Gilly's Redefined, Koramangala
Tickets: ₹499 via Insider.in, plus ₹499 cover charge at the door

Jaipur-origin folk-fusion band Yugm make their way to Bengaluru as part of their ongoing tour across the country to promote their upcoming album *Raag-Bairaag*. Known for songs 'More Piya', 'Lafz' and their recent single, 'Tum Totey Ho Kya' as well as 'Musafir x Wanderer', which was part of the series Mismatched season 2, Yugm are joined by singer-songwriter Sridev Ramesh and rock band Vinyl, who released their debut album *Love, V* in December last year and followed it up with a self-titled album in September 2023.

Yugm have previously said about their upcoming album, "Each of the seven songs represents a distinct facet, weaving together a symphony that reflects the completeness found in embracing all aspects of existence."

Euphoria
December 15, 7 pm onwards
Forum South Bangalore, off Kanakapura Road
Tickets: ₹599, via BookMyShow

Celebrating 25 years in action, folk-rock and fusion/pop band Euphoria have been on a nationwide tour and stop by the city this Friday, for a performance featuring their career-spanning songs – from 'Maaeri', 'Dhoom Pichuck' and 'Tum' to 'Phir Dhoom', 'Aana Meri Gully' and 'Saajna'. The band's singer and frontman Palash Sen said in a statement about their run of shows, "This tour is very close to our hearts and this year is a major landmark. Our journey over these years has been full of ups and downs and we could not have done this without the support of our collaborators, crew and most importantly, our fans. We are filled with gratitude and this is our gift back to our fans for the love and support they have shown us."

Luminous line up Afrojack (left) and Euphoria (below) are in town this weekend as are Acid Arab, Mali and Yugum (top, from L-R). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

400 artists from 40 cities to shine at India Art festival

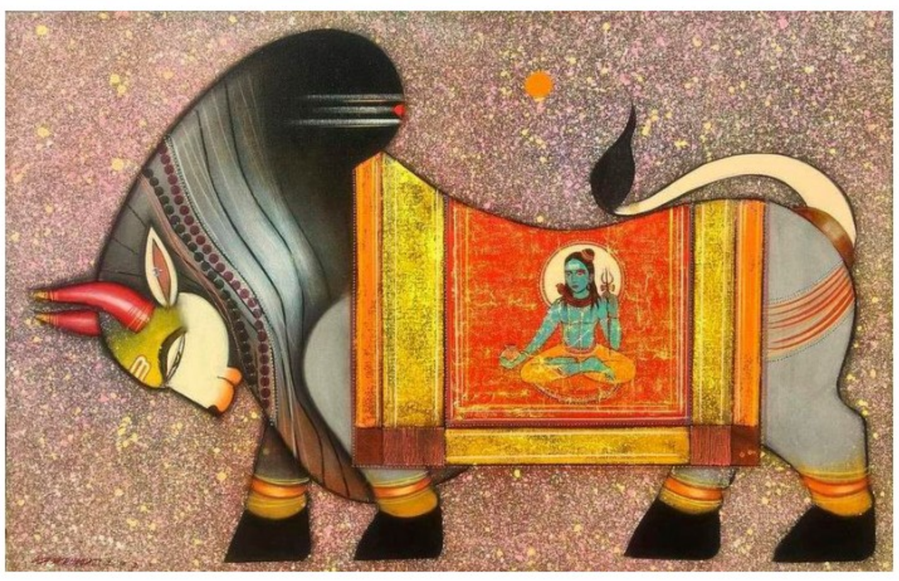
Shilpa Anandraj

The India Art Festival commences in Bengaluru on December 14. "We call it the India Art Festival, because the word festival means celebration," says Mumbai-based Rajendra Patil, the man who started the India Art Festival in 2010.

Speaking from Palace Grounds amidst setting up for the opening, Rajendra says, "This is a celebration of all kinds of arts. This year, the festival will feature artists from across India with participation from art galleries from almost every state and a few from Singapore as well."

Twenty-five art galleries and over 400 artists from 40 cities across India will participate, says Rajendra. "The festival is a testament to the thriving art scene in the country, and we have curated a comprehensive exploration of various artistic expressions with paintings, sculptures, photography, ceramics, and installations."

Akanksha Art Gallery, Charvi Art Gallery, Sara Arakkal Gallerie (from Bengaluru), ArtDesh Foundation, Artvista, Beyond the Canvas, are some of the participating art galleries.



The festival will also feature a film screening, *The Eternal Canvas*.

"It takes the viewer through the 12,000 year history of Indian art. It is a cinematic exploration of our artistic heritage from prehistoric times and cave paintings to the Mughal era and contemporary expressions."

The show in Bengaluru is India Arts Festival's 26th show. It is organised every year by the Indian Contemporary Art Journal (IAF), this is Bengaluru's third edition, with over 3,500 pieces of artworks.

There will also be an artists' pavilion, which will feature individual booths by independent artists that will allow for a dialogue between viewers and the artist.

"The aim is to provide something more than the art. We also have audios and visuals for a cinematic experience."

All under one roof Ashok Rathod and (below) P Gnana are some of the participating artists. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Eminent artists like Ganapati Agnihotri, Kanthraj N, Chintamani, Ganesh Doddamani will perform with musicians including Manjunath (flute), Subramanya Hegde (sitar), Karthik (mandolin) accompanied by Maruti Prasad (tabla) as part of a fusion show of live music and art demonstration. "A live art demonstration gives art students an idea of how art actually unfolds, albeit in minutes. This year, we look forward to some more footfalls from serious art students, architects, artists, writers and anyone who loves art. We also look at it as a trade fair."

Besides all these there will also be live music featuring artistes from Bengaluru like Manjunath (flute), Karthik (mandolin) and Subramanya Hegde (sitar).

The venue for India Art festival will be the Kings Court, Palace Ground, between 11 am and 8pm everyday. Tickets, priced at ₹299, are available on BookMyShow and the venue.

Tale as old as time A scene from the play *DNA*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mirror to youth

DNA, a play directed by Arundhati Raja, encapsulates the essence of contemporary issues faced by teenagers in a captivating narrative. It portrays the views of disaffected and alienated teenagers in the 'modern' world.

DNA revolves around a group of teenagers who commit a mistake and try to cover it up. The play address issues that reflect the prevailing reality of the world through different characters and their dialogue. The strength of the play is that the script successfully shows contemporary issues through the characters' conversations.

What makes the play relatable is the director's decision to cast actors of the same age as the teenage characters on stage, allowing for a more authentic representation of the struggles they go through.

"I always approach a story with full analysis of the script," says Arundhati. "The script speaks to me and shows how strong the storyline is. I also do a complete character analysis, engaging with the actors to understand their perspectives. This diligent groundwork helps the actors personify their roles more authentically. They get to explore the character's thought process and coping mechanisms."

The play raises questions about the balance between individual rights and maintaining the harmony in a group as the central dilemma revolves around group dynamics.

"We stay true to the emergence of the story. The play is structured in a way to mimic the mannerisms of a group, scrutinizing what feels right within the narrative. It is a fascinating exploration of our perceptions, which may vary from our personal beliefs."

The play delves into characters, their psyche, movements, and interactions within the setting, says Arundhati. "It also gives importance to different contemporary issues which youngsters sort among themselves, and that makes for a good script."

"I hope the audience comprehends the play's narrative and their children's struggles. I don't want them to have a solution, but the play should encourage discussions between adults and youngsters about the issues teenagers face regularly. Parents might be startled by glimpses of unfiltered experiences their child undergoes."

The inspiration to stage this play came from the students in the academy. She says, "The students could connect with the script, and we have a realistic plot." Changing the script, Arundhati says, would undermine the integrity of the play and would not be an honest portrayal of the issues youngsters face.

- Navya Naveli

DNA, open to audiences above 12 years of age, will be staged at Jagriti Theatre from December 15 to 17. Tickets on bookmyshow

Centre nudging us towards financial crisis, says Kerala

In a suit in SC, Kerala says State has the exclusive power to regulate its finances; it contends that Centre's recent actions, amendments, executive orders have reduced Kerala to a state of penury

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Kerala has filed a suit in the Supreme Court accusing the Centre of violating the federal structure of governance and causing "severe damage to the economy of a small State with meagre resources" by interfering with its finances.

The suit said a State, in a federal system of governance, had the exclusive power to regulate its finance through preparation and management of its budget and borrowings.

The State, represented by advocate C.K. Sasi, contended that recent actions, amendments and executive orders by the Centre were calculated to reduce Kerala to a state of penury.

> Unless the Net Borrowing Ceiling, as fixed by the Kerala Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003, is restored, the State is apprehensive that its treasury operations will be starkly curtailed
> **KERALA GOVERNMENT**

Net Borrowing Ceiling

Kerala said the Centre had imposed a Net Borrowing Ceiling on the State in a way to limit its borrowings from all sources, including the open market. The Centre had also imposed conditions on the State taking loans from outside India. Kerala said the Centre's orders had "brought the operation of the State's Budget to a grave crisis".

"Unless the Net Borrowing Ceiling, as fixed by the Kerala Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003, based on which the State Budget has been drawn up and approved by the legislature is restored, the State is legitimately apprehensive that its treasury operations will be halted or starkly curtailed. This is a dire situation looming ahead and the immediate consequences to the State will be catastrophic," the suit highlighted. Kerala said it had already suffered a cumulative expenditure loss or resource deficiency of ₹1,07,513.09 crores over fiscal year period between 2016-2023.

Break the ice over a hot tea, SC tells T.N. CM, Governor

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday urged Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and Governor R.N. Ravi to break the ice over hot tea, saying the "business of the government and the business of governance" should not suffer from the ensuing deadlock over the clearance of 10 crucial Bills.

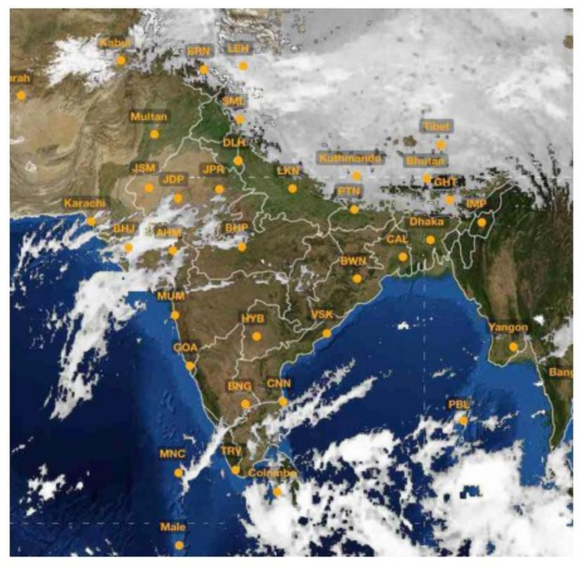
The Tamil Nadu government informed a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud that the Governor has invited the Chief Minister for tea. Mr. Stalin has accepted the invitation.

"Let there be a break in the deadlock. Let them meet. This is not a one-off issue... Ultimately there should be some way out of this impasse, not only for now, but for the future... There should be a channel of communication open between the Chief Minister and the Governor... The business of government and the business of governance have to go on," Chief Justice Chandrachud said.

Senior advocates A.M. Singhvi, P. Wilson and advocate Sabarish Subramanian, for Tamil Nadu, said the meeting may "break the ice" but "neither tea nor stiffer beverages can solve the constitutional problem" triggered by the Governor's decision to refer the Bills, re-enacted by the Assembly, to the President for consideration instead of granting assent.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Punjab, Haryana and north Uttar Pradesh. Squally weather (wind speed reaching 40-45 kmph gusting to 55 kmph) likely to prevail over Comorin area and adjoining Maldives areas

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	24.4	14.6	Kozhikode	—	34.0	25.2
Ahmedabad	—	29.0	15.8	Kurnool	—	31.5	19.4
Aizawl	—	25.5	16.6	Lucknow	—	23.5	9.4
Allahabad	—	25.3	11.5	Madurai	—	31.2	22.0
Bengaluru	—	27.5	18.3	Mangaluru	—	32.4	24.4
Bhopal	—	25.8	11.0	Mumbai	—	32.4	19.4
Bhubaneswar	—	27.7	15.0	Mysuru	—	29.4	—
Chandigarh	—	23.6	8.6	New Delhi	—	24.6	7.4
Chennai	—	29.3	22.6	Patna	—	24.4	10.6
Coimbatore	—	27.6	20.9	Port Blair	0.6	31.4	26.1
Dehradun	—	23.5	6.5	Puducherry	—	29.2	22.5
Gangtok	—	12.8	8.9	Pune	—	30.1	16.1
Goa	—	33.4	23.0	Raipur	—	28.0	15.6
Guwahati	—	26.8	15.6	Ranchi	—	22.6	10.2
Hubballi	—	32.0	17.0	Shillong	—	19.1	8.2
Hyderabad	—	27.5	16.3	Shimla	—	15.8	3.8
Imphal	—	24.5	12.2	Srinagar	—	9.8	-5.3
Jaipur	—	25.6	11.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.9	24.6
Kochi	—	31.6	24.8	Tiruchi	—	30.7	22.0
Kohima	—	19.4	8.0	Vijayawada	—	30.0	20.0
Kolkata	—	26.5	14.6	Visakhapatnam	—	28.4	21.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	8	14	24	148	108	
Bengaluru	7	11	67	125	108	
Chennai	12	25	83	133	88	
Delhi	8	120	77	421	398	
Hyderabad	2	37	47	81	111	
Kolkata	24	87	35	209	148	
Lucknow	6	46	108	250	194	
Mumbai	17	71	31	132	154	
Pune	121	184	111	202	122	
Visakhapatnam	17	48	38	120	116	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Delhi, recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 378 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

'40% commission': HC gives panel 45 days to complete probe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that "no proceeding took place" on the proposed inquiry during the past three to four months, the High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday set a deadline of 45 days for the one-man commission of inquiry to complete the probe into the allegation of "40% commission" in the contracts awarded under the previous BJP government from 2019-20 to 2022-23.

Also, the court said the commission would have to consider all the documents that would be placed by all the stakeholders before it, provide an opportunity for hearing to all the stakeholders, and formulate its report within an outer limit of 45 days.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order while modifying the order of December 7, by which the court had stayed further proceeding before the commission till the government explained why the inquiry was not completed within one month as was proposed. The court also directed the government to submit the commission's report to the court by February 6, 2024.

If the inquiry is used as a reason to get over the payment to be made to the contractors who have already executed the works, then the court will have to interfere, but if the real spirit is to conduct a probe on allegations within a reasonable time then the court will not come in the way, Justice Nagaprasamma orally made it clear to State Advocate-General Shashi Kiran Shetty.

Following this, the A-G said the government was making payments to the contractors in the order of "seniority"; 50% of the amount due was being paid where there were some allegations of irregularities in works, and 75% of the amount was being paid on seniority in other cases as per terms of recent government orders.

'What kind of State govt. do we have?'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"What kind of State government do we have?" A Division Bench of the Karnataka High Court comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit made this oral observation on the conduct of the government in deducting tax at source on the entire amount due to the contractors even though the government is paying only 50% to 75% of the total amount due to some of them.

"Which contractor will come forward to execute the government's works ... They [contractors] will start quoting four times to the government's works in future ...," the Bench observed while adjourning the hearing on the contempt petition till the second week of February as the petitioner-contract had given an undertaking before the single judge.

Celebration on wheels

NCC cadets, who are carrying out a mega cyclathon from Kanyakumari to Delhi, to mark the 75th NCC Raising Day, taking a detour through Bhatt Road Beach in Kozhikode on Wednesday. The district leg of the cyclathon was flagged off by Kozhikode Mayor Beena Philip. K RAGESH

Chaos makes way for order at Sabarimala

Hiran Unnikrishnan
PATHANAMTHITTA

After days of unending traffic snarls and chaos, Sabarimala pilgrims who reached Nilackal and Pampa on Wednesday were greeted by scenes of smooth traffic and order.

Although the inflow of pilgrims remained the same as in the previous days, the rapid measures introduced by the authorities have eventually succeeded in bringing the desired results. A vast majority of the pilgrims, who had been stuck on the roads and in the queues along the trekking path, completed the pilgrimage and returned.

At the same time, those who made their way to the hillock during the day needed to wait in queues along the trekking path to reach Sannidhanam from Pampa. As per estimates, 50,162 people visited the temple through the virtual queue on Wednesday till 6 p.m. The number of people who reached Sannidhanam the previous day was 90,889.

Sabarimala pilgrims walking through Marakoottam on the Pampa-Sannidhanam trekking path on Wednesday. LEJU KAMAL

More bus services

The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) chain bus services between Nilackal and Pampa operated without trouble. With more police and KSRTC officials on duty, the scenes of devotees jostling for space inside buses were also missing at Nilackal.

"An average of 65 services operated every hour and although each of these buses was packed to capacity, the rush was well under control," said Sunil Kumar, KSRTC special officer, Pampa. The previous day, it had operated as many as 2,300 round trips to and from Nilackal and Pampa.

The curbs introduced on the onward journey of pilgrims from *idathavalams* (stop-over points) too have been lifted. The parking grounds at Nilackal, which overflowed with vehicles till recently, were adequate to accommodate the vehicles that reached the location during the day.

As the crowd that had overwhelmed the pilgrimage zone began to disperse, the sanitation drive at these locations too picked up momentum.

Devaswom Minister K. Radhakrishnan visited the pilgrimage zone and reviewed the crowd management measures.

According to the Minister, the temple recorded the season's biggest rush on December 7.

V. Ajith, District Police Chief, Pathanamthitta, said 1,350 policemen had been deployed at Sannidhanam in three shifts.

Short films on rehabilitation to inspire prisoners

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

In an effort to promote rehabilitation by showcasing success stories in correctional services, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has advised jail authorities to produce short films on the lives of reformed prisoners to inspire other inmates to lead better lives.

In a communication to Chief Secretaries/Heads of Prisons, the MHA said short films spanning two or three minutes could depict feeling of regret and remorse after committing crime. Besides sharing positive messages, the video on how the thought process of reformed prisoners changed over a period of time, resulting in them acquiring new skills, could be a source of inspiration to other inmates.

The Union Home Ministry urged States and Union Territories to maximise virtual hearing of cases of prisoners as the exercise would save time and resources, besides ensuring the safety of inmates.

One of the components of the 'Modernisation of Prisons' project was procurement of video conference equipment as part of strengthening the security infrastructure of prisons. Court hearing and trial of inmates through video conference saved money of underprivileged litigants and also made production of witnesses easier.

After the Supreme Court gave legal sanctity and validity to court hearings through video conferencing on April 6, 2020, one video conference equipment each was provided to all court complexes, including taluk-level courts. The facility was also established linking 3,240 courts with 1,272 prisons.

Biometric verification

Prison authorities were advised to adopt Biometric Verification System, along with physical counting.

Bhatti to reside at residential building in Praja Bhavan

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has allotted the residential building on the premises of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan to Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka as his official residential accommodation.

The decision puts an end to the suspense over whether Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy would prefer the Praja Bhavan (previously Pragati Bhavan) as his official residence.

The Praja Bhavan has already started receiving representations from people about their problems and a host of people thronged the complex to submit their grievances to authorities ever since barricades and other obstructions had been brought down enabling free entry to the public.

In the order issued on Wednesday, Chief Secretary A. Santhi Kumari said that executive engineer (R&B) should hand over the possession to the Deputy Chief Minister and had been asked to intimate the date of occupation of the premises by Mr. Vikramarka.

A.P. High Court stays release of temple funds allocated for sanitation works in Tirupati city

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

TTD has planned to release fund of ₹100 crore per annum for sanitation works in four zones of TMC

A Division Bench of the Andhra Pradesh High Court has stayed the release of funds by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) for sanitation and cleanliness works in the Tirupati Municipal Corporation (TMC).

The court directed the TMC to file counters in this regard within two weeks.

The High Court also restrained the TTD from releasing the funds even if tenders had been finalised and subsequently posted the matter for further hearing after two weeks.

The High Court Bench comprising Chief Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur and Justice R. Raghunandan Rao was hearing a PIL petition filed by BJP leader and former TTD Trust Board member G. Bhanu Prakash Reddy, who challenged the sanction of ₹100 crore per annum by the TTD for the said works in four zones of the TMC. He claimed that it violated Section 111 of the Andhra Pradesh Charitable and Hindu Religious Institutions and Endowments Act of 1987 and Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution.

Y. Balaji, counsel for the petitioner, argued in the court that TTD funds ought to be spent only on the management of the temple and religious activities.

He pointed out that the TMC should meet the expenditure on sanitation works out of its surplus budget.

The court issued an interim order staying the proposed release of funds.

Shift in Chhattisgarh

The BJP will have to make good on its poll promises in the tribal State

The BJP has effected a generational shift in all the three States where it won in the Assembly elections recently. In Chhattisgarh, Vishnu Deo Sai's elevation as Chief Minister was not entirely surprising unlike the picks in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. His experience as a Union Minister and party State president were what weighed in his favour; he also happens to belong to a tribal community. Above all, he is trusted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. His appointment is expected to boost the BJP's State politics ahead of the Lok Sabha election. The party had won all 14 seats in the northern tribal belt of Sarguja, and its tribal outreach continues. One of the two Deputy Chief Ministers, Arun Sao, who had replaced Mr. Sai as the State president last year, is from the dominant Sahu OBC community in the plains that both the Congress and the BJP woo. He hails from the Bilaspur region where the contest between the two parties was the closest. A similar caste and regional balancing act is associated with the appointment of Vijay Sharma, a Brahmin, as the second Deputy Chief Minister. Mr. Sharma, a first-time MLA, defeated Mohammad Akbar, a Congress veteran and the only Muslim Minister in the previous government.

The BJP has 10 more slots in the Council of Ministers to be filled, and it will be guided by considerations of caste and gender balancing. The new government will have to hit the ground running – from fulfilling economic promises, including the construction of 18 lakh homes for the rural poor, giving the outstanding bonus on paddy for 2016-17 and 2017-18, i.e., the last two years of the previous BJP government, and disbursal under Mahtari Vandan Yojana of ₹12,000 every year to all married women, to conducting a swift probe into the corruption allegation that the BJP levelled against the Bhupesh Baghel regime earlier. It must also resolve the stalemate over two Reservation Amendment Bills that provide for a 76% quota in jobs and educational institutions. These Bills, passed unanimously by the previous Assembly, have been withheld by Raj Bhavan. With a BJP government at the helm indicating an end to the tussle that the previous government had with the Governor, a swift implementation of the proposed changes under a tribal Chief Minister is likely to boost the BJP's credentials before the Lok Sabha election. The new government will also have to take a view on the Swami Atmanand English medium schools and colleges, touted as a major achievement by the Congress government. Urban voters decisively turned in favour of the BJP in polls, and the new government will have to pay attention to their concerns.

End the uncertainty

Centre's proactive approach to resolve issues of Sri Lankan repatriates is must

The Madras High Court has demonstrated how the judiciary can provide succour to a person waiting for over 40 years to get Indian citizenship. In *T. Ganesan vs The Government of India & Others*, the Madurai Bench of the High Court, in its judgment on November 30, directed the authorities to treat the petitioner and his family as Indian citizens, thus extending to them relief measures that the Tamil Nadu government provides to repatriates from Sri Lanka. The 69-year-old petitioner, now a resident of a refugee camp in Karur, reached India in 1990 after having been issued an Indian passport in Kandy in August 1982 on repatriation under two bilateral treaties that concerned hill country Tamils or Indian Origin Tamils (IOT). He had approached the court as the authorities treated him only as a Sri Lankan refugee even though he is an Indian citizen. The government accepted the genuineness of his passport but doubted his identity because the photograph was the image of a "far younger" person. But the court rejected this position. Ganesan is not the only such person. The court has recorded that around 5,130 applicants (IOT category) have sought citizenship. In official data of March 2023, Tamil Nadu had about 91,000 refugees, with around 58,000 in camps.

This is not the first time that the Bench, especially Justice G.R. Swaminathan, has gone to the rescue of those in the camps. In the last 15 months, the judge had established that the petitioners concerned were Indian citizens, interpreting provisions of the Citizenship Act, and should be issued passports. Otherwise, the general legal position of the Union government is that every refugee is an illegal migrant though entitled to benefits. A DMK State government study found that nearly 8,000 refugees are eligible for Indian citizenship as they do not come under exclusions of the law. The Union government's stand has been that despite not being a signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention or the 1967 Protocol, it adheres to the principle of non-refoulement. The government also favours the voluntary repatriation of refugees to Sri Lanka. This was a reason why the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 did not include Sri Lankan refugees. The Centre should ensure follow-up action on the DMK government's study. It should first identify those eligible for citizenship under the legal framework and ascertain their consent. For those who wish to pursue higher studies or go abroad for a livelihood, permission can be granted if the applicant has no criminal record. The Union government should initiate talks with Sri Lanka on voluntary repatriation and a structured assistance programme worked out. A proactive approach should be followed to ensure that those tagged as refugees are able to lead a life of dignity.

Gaza, a new pointer to India's changed world view

Shashi Tharoor

a third-term member of the Lok Sabha (Congress), representing Thiruvananthapuram, is a former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, former Minister of State for External Affairs, and former Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs. He has written extensively on international relations and foreign policy

India's tortuous stand on the ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict reveals a fascinating portrait of the recent evolution of its foreign policy. For decades after Independence, India's approach to the world was guided by its historical experience of western colonialism. After 200 years of a foreign country speaking for it on the world stage, newly-independent Indians, led by the fiercely anti-colonial Jawaharlal Nehru, were not willing to surrender their freedom to make their own decisions by joining either alliance in the Cold War. "Strategic autonomy" thus became an obsession, leading to the birth of "non-alignment", or equidistance between the superpowers.

It was a complicated stance. As a leading voice for decolonisation, Indian moralism against imperialism and apartheid often manifested itself as anti-westernism, and indeed on such matters it often found itself ranged alongside the USSR and against the West, even while the country's steadfast adherence to democracy and diversity at home endeared it to liberals in the West.

When the United Nations voted in 1947 to partition the former British Mandate Territory of Palestine into two states, Israel and Palestine, India voted against. As the victim of a British-driven partition of its own territory to favour a religious minority (when Pakistan was carved out of India's stooped shoulders by the departing imperial power), it had no desire to acquiesce in another partition to create a Jewish state. India argued for a single secular state for both Jews and Arabs in Palestine, much like the state it had established for itself. It was, however, outvoted on the matter.

When Israel was indeed established, India duly extended recognition, but kept relations at consular level for more than four decades. In the meantime, it became the first non-Arab country to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in 1974, and to formally extend recognition to the Palestinian state in 1988. It was only in 1992 that relations with Israel were also upgraded to Ambassadorial level.

The turning point

The onset of Pakistan-enabled Islamic militancy against India, however, prompted New Delhi to see greater merit in warmer relations with Tel Aviv. With both countries sharing similar enemies in Islamist extremists, and both enduring terrorist attacks from self-declared holy warriors, security and intelligence co-operation between the two countries began to grow. Gradually, political and diplomatic relations blossomed.

At the same time, successive Indian governments, conscious of the sympathies of India's own substantial Muslim population, continued to extend support to the PLO. When Yasser Arafat abandoned the gun for a peaceful solution to the long-simmering conflict, India too became a votary of the two-state solution, calling for Palestinians and Israelis to live in security and dignity behind recognised borders in their own lands. Today, India is one of a handful of countries to maintain Ambassadors in both Tel Aviv and Ramallah.

> Despite many areas of continuity, India's foreign policy has begun to change in key areas under the Narendra Modi government

The India-Israel relationship has appreciably strengthened in recent years, with Israel becoming a vital source of defence equipment, intelligence co-operation and, reports allege, of surveillance software for use by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's increasingly autocratic government against its own domestic opponents and critics. The personal warmth exhibited by Prime Ministers Benjamin Netanyahu and Narendra Modi in their meetings symbolises the extent of their closeness. Mr. Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Israel and Mr. Netanyahu has twice travelled the other way.

So when terror struck Israel on October 7 with the killings of 1,400 and the abductions of 200 more of its citizens, Mr. Modi was swift to respond, tweeting that India stood in "solidarity with Israel in this difficult hour". A second tweet soon followed, in similar vein, as did a telephone call of support to Mr. Netanyahu. The Israeli retribution was loudly cheered on by supporters of Mr. Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, whose antipathy to India's Muslims is no secret.

The erosion of India's one-sidedness

The mounting death toll in Gaza from Israeli bombardment and the relentless media coverage of the destruction of neighbourhoods, hospitals and places of worship, however, began to erode the one-sidedness of India's stand. After some days, the country's External Affairs Ministry put out a statement voicing support for the "resumption of direct negotiations towards establishing a sovereign, independent and viable state of Palestine, living within secure and recognised borders, side by side at peace with Israel".

But the Prime Minister's Twitter-finger was not so quickly deployed. A call to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, to convey his condolences for the loss of innocent lives as a result of the bombing of the al-Ahli Arab Hospital, was all he managed to do to express sympathy for the victims of Israeli retribution in Gaza. Though Mr. Abbas is in Ramallah and has no control over Gaza, since he heads the Fatah faction of the PLO to which Hamas is unalterably opposed, Mr. Modi no doubt believed this would redress the balance that had been disturbed by his uncritical support for Israel.

India then announced that Mr. Modi had "reiterated India's long-standing principled position on the Israel-Palestine issue".

And yet, when the United Nations General Assembly voted by an overwhelming majority to call for an "immediate, durable and sustainable humanitarian truce", India chose to abstain, on the grounds that the resolution had failed to condemn the terror attacks of October 7. But several other countries, including France – historically an ally of Israel – had voted for the resolution while, in a speech explaining their vote, deploring its failure to condemn terrorism. India's stand was, in other words, more pro-Israeli than France's – and France, unlike India, was historically an ally of Israel.

It struck many as odd, to put it mildly, that the land of Mahatma Gandhi did not vote for peace, and that a country which calls itself the voice of the Global South took a stand that isolated it from the rest of the Global South. Though a corrective occurred at the United Nations General Assembly this week, when India finally joined the overwhelming majority (153 to 10, with 23 abstentions) to vote, for the first time, in favour of a resolution in the UN General Assembly that demanded an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in the conflict, the echoes of the previous vote have not died down.

China's rise, an American affinity

Despite many areas of continuity, India's foreign policy has begun to change in important areas under Mr. Modi, arguably beyond recognition on the Israel issue, and more subtly in other areas. The rise of China has already prompted a greater affinity to the United States and its strategic concerns about Beijing's intentions, concerns which New Delhi has good reason to share after the killing of 20 soldiers in Galwan in June 2020.

It was not surprising, therefore, that, in keeping with its new receptivity to U.S. strategic thinking, India associated itself with the reorientation of the geopolitics of the Middle East following the Abraham Accords, joining a quadrilateral dialogue dubbed the "I2U2" (India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the United States). The G-20 summit in New Delhi announced IMEC (India-Middle East-Europe-Economic Corridor), an India-Middle Eastern Economic Co-operation initiative whose trade route would go from India through Saudi Arabia to the Israeli port of Haifa.

Though that scheme now lies in ruins along with most of Gaza, the intentions are clear. With Russia a decreasingly useful partner in global geopolitics, and China nibbling away at India's disputed frontier with it, the makings of a fundamental reorientation have become apparent. Gaza is the latest manifestation of a perceptible change in India's view of the world.

Article 370 judgment is a case of constitutional monism

Zaid Deva

is a lawyer based in Srinagar

More than four years after the abrogation of Article 370, the Supreme Court of India, on Monday, unanimously upheld the actions of the Indian government. While much of the discourse around the judgment has focused on the question of statehood, it is important to remember that the special status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) was really at the heart of the matter.

To arrive at its conclusions, the Court employs a historical, textual, and structural interpretation of the Constitution of India, and all three approaches are deeply informed by constitutional monism. Here are three sites where the Court employs a monist reading of the Constitution, and why this sets a dangerous precedent for federalism in India.

Federalism and constitutional sovereignty

The monism that is reflected in the judgment imagines the Union Constitution as the sole bearer of internal and external sovereignty. While this may be true, Article 370 laid down an elaborate framework for the distribution of powers and authority between the Union and the State governments. This was affirmed by the J&K Constituent Assembly and not just as an interim measure pending total integration. Its Basic Principles committee's report, based on which the State Constitution was drafted, stated: 'The sovereignty of the State resides in the people thereof and shall except in regard to matters specifically entrusted to the Union be exercised on their behalf by the various organs of the State...the State's legislature will have powers to make laws for the State in respect of all matters falling within the sphere of its residuary sovereignty'.

By focusing more on the particular concept of sovereignty 'which requires no subordination to another body', the Court ends up refusing to recognise the shared sovereignty model of Article 370. After all, sovereignty in federal constitutions is not a binary concept restricted to a simple 'is' or 'isn't' classification. Rather, it encompasses various dimensions and exists along a spectrum of degrees.

> Such a judicial reading in a context that defies monism also affects federalism and constitutional democracy

The contingency of the presidential power

Another site where the Court's monism operates is in its reading of Clause 3 of Article 370. The Court rejects the argument that Article 370 had gained permanence after the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly as this 'is premised on the understanding that the constitutional body had unbridled power to alter the constitutional integration of the State with the Union'. The Court also relies on Clause 3 to hold that Clause 1 could be operated without the concurrence of the State government since 'the effect of applying all the provisions of the Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir through the exercise of power under Article 370(1)(d) is the same as issuing a notification under Article 370(3)'.

In a constitutional democracy, no body or institution has unbridled powers. Further, Clause 3 of Article 370 is primarily concerned with the relationship of two powers and not just the status or the relationship of the power-bearing entities. The proviso to Clause 3 makes it clear that the presidential power to abrogate Article 370 was *contingent* on the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly.

As it is in the nature of the presidential powers under Clause 3 to be contingent on the Constituent Assembly, this limitation does not die with the dissolution of the Assembly. The relation of powers here does not mean that the President becomes 'subordinate' to the Constituent Assembly but that power as a federal arrangement has been distributed across multiple axes under Article 370. The interpretation of Clause 1 that the Court offers is based on syllogistic reasoning but one that collapses the question of the nature of powers into the question of the effect of powers.

Holding that the President has the untrammelled power to abrogate Article 370 and order a total application of the Indian Constitution to the State to the effect that the State's Constitution becomes inoperative is an 'unbridled power' that defies the logic of federalism and constitutional democracy.

State's views on its future

The judgment's monism imagines popular sovereignty as a monolith where since the views of an individual State for the purposes of reorganisation are not binding on Parliament, Parliament, therefore, is well placed to speak for the state. Justice Sanjay Kaul holds that 'views are to be taken from the entire nation via the Parliament, as the issue leading to the reorganisation affects the nation as a whole'.

There are many sites within the Constitution where a recommendatory power is vested in a body. Merely because that power may not be binding does not mean that the power can be taken over by another body or that power need not be exercised because at its heart lies the question of agency. The inevitable conclusion that one arrives at is that the popular sovereignty of a State's people *vis-à-vis* the State becomes subordinate to the popular sovereignty of the entire nation *vis-à-vis* the Union as well as the States. This is particularly worrying in the context of J&K where the threshold for reorganising the State was historically much higher compared to the other States.

By relying on a monist reading of the Constitution, in a context that defies monism, the Court has not only upheld the abrogation of Article 370 but has also put its stamp of approval on the silencing, and rendering inconsequential, of the voice of the people of the former State of J&K.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On Kashmir

There is nothing wrong with comparing the situation in Kashmir with the Athens of Plato's time. We cannot blame the current regime totally for the 'fall' of the State to Union Territory status. It has only removed the crown, Article 370. The rest of the provisions such as Prime Minister, Sadr-i Riyasat, were made invisible earlier. The blame must be shared by the political leadership in general in Kashmir. The erstwhile governments in Jammu and Kashmir could neither give something new nor protect what was cherished by the people.

Amir Bashir Jan Sheikh,
Baramulla, Kashmir

It is interesting how everyone is allowed to have an opinion on Article 370 except Kashmiris themselves. I do not believe anyone else should have the prerogative to decide whether the repeal of 370 was good or bad except Kashmiris. Interestingly, no one has bothered to ask us. From the government to the judiciary and the people of India, everyone reiterates that "Kashmir is an integral part of India". But I have never heard anyone say "Kashmiris are an integral part of India".

Toyiba,
Srinagar, Kashmir

The Supreme Court verdict upholding the abrogation of Article 370 is in the best interests of J&K,and shows the importance of the temple of justice.

Jyoti Kumar Verma,
Varanasi

The pilgrim's progress

The rush at Sabarimala has been unprecedented ever since the pilgrim season began. It is shocking that a pilgrim passed away unable to bear the stress. The authorities must ensure the safety and smooth movement of pilgrims. Adequate drinking water and snacks should be ensured. No pilgrim with the wish to see the lord must be made to suffer.

Balagopal Gopinath,
Keerikkad, Alappuzha, Kerala

The sordid situation is mainly due to the lack of adequate preparedness of and slovenly coordination by the temple authorities including the State government. The great agony and despair that the pilgrims, a majority from neighbouring States, are facing cannot be undone by stop gap arrangements.

Ayyasseri Raveendranath,
Aranmula, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Congress is indispensable in fighting BJP

Ruchi Gupta

is the Executive Director of the Future of India Foundation

There are many subtexts underpinning the discussions – negotiations if you will – to operationalise INDIA, the Opposition front, in the run-up to the general elections. Given that the main premise of the alliance is to put up a single Opposition candidate against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), one of the biggest sticking points is seat-sharing. This is not a trivial issue; the seats any party concedes to the united alliance will be seats where its own party members will be unable to contest. This has implications for intra-party dynamics and party organisation. The share of seats is also related to the relative strength of the party in post-poll negotiations. It is thus natural that each party would like to maximise its own share of contested seats. But these considerations may seem petty juxtaposed with the larger rubric of 'saving democracy' under which the INDIA alliance was stitched together. Thus, the negotiations are likely to pivot around the 'winnability' of the parties in question vis-à-vis the BJP.

Regional parties

The common political trope in this context is that regional parties are better able to repulse the challenges by the BJP than the Congress. Three allegedly empirical facts support this contention: first, regional parties bested the BJP in high-profile State elections; second, the relative strike rates of the Congress and regional parties in alliance vis-à-vis the BJP; and third, Congress' middling performance in direct contests with the BJP. This perception has been buttressed by the recent Assembly elections where the Congress lost all the three States where it fought in a bipolar contest with the BJP.

At first glance, these arguments seem persuasive. However, there are important caveats. First, the performance of regional parties vis-à-vis the BJP has been mixed. The BJP was defeated by the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, the Biju Janata Dal in Odisha, and the Rashtriya Janata Dal-Janata Dal (United)-Congress alliance in Bihar. However, it defeated the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party in Uttar Pradesh, and outperformed both the JD(U) (vote share and seats won) and the RJD (strike rate) in the next Bihar election under a different permutation. In Karnataka, another regional party, the Janata Dal (Secular), was squeezed out of the election by the Congress in a three-way election with the BJP.

In each of the States where the regional parties outperformed the BJP, the BJP was/is a fledgling party or operating as a junior partner in an alliance. Despite the BJP's high-octane campaigns and modus operandi of building organisation by importing leaders from other parties, the timeline to craft a majority mandate in large States can be compressed only so much. However, the BJP's impressive increase in vote share and the perceived closeness of the contests indicate that regional parties' hegemony over the BJP is not a foregone conclusion. Equally, if the fundamental premise of INDIA is to put up a united opposition to the BJP, the uncertain fidelity to this premise by many regional parties is likely to play some role in the discussions.

The one exception to the above narrative is Delhi where the BJP is genuinely strong but was defeated by the Aam Aadmi Party. However, AAP's performance in the recent State elections was dismal. It got fewer votes than NOTA and lost deposits in almost all the seats it contested. It is thus evident that outside of Delhi and Punjab, the AAP needs the opposition alliance more, and the Congress especially, to gain a foothold.

The second caveat is that the national election is no longer an aggregate of State elections with voters making their choice on different considerations in State and national elections. This has two implications. First, that the performance of regional parties in State elections cannot be extrapolated to the national election. Second, the key to contesting the national election is responding to the voters' expectations and aspirations from the national government.

A national counterpoint

It is here that the Congress is indispensable but also where serious work remains to be done. It is evident that welfare is not a distinguishing agenda and that questions of federalism and institutional independence are not electorally salient issues. Moreover, the BJP polled more than 50% votes in 16 States and Union Territories in the last election, which means that arithmetic without a framework to provide coherence to the Opposition alliance is unlikely to be effective. The regional parties thus need the Congress – as much as the Congress needs them – to provide a national counterpoint and ideological scaffolding for the united Opposition.

Given the above context, it can be argued that it is the lack of a national counterpoint that is weakening the Congress and INDIA. Over the last two terms, the party has lurched from a narrative of corruption to federalism to social justice without articulating its own vision for the country and fleshing out that vision with a programmatic agenda. Moreover, there seems to be thinking that communal polarisation can be countered through some other counter-polarisation. But in amplifying caste or regional cleavages, the party is in danger of losing its all-inclusive and nationally representative character. This would be unfortunate both for the party, given its illustrious history, and for the country, with only one party, the BJP, remaining as the repository of national ambitions.

The regional parties need the Congress — as much as the Congress needs them — to provide a national counterpoint and ideological scaffolding for the united Opposition

Kerala's fiscal woes appear real

The LDF government is struggling to meet its commitments

STATE OF PLAY

Tiki Rajwi

Fiscal federalism, or rather its perceived erosion in recent times, has occupied centre stage in the increasingly strained financial relations between the BJP-led Union government and the Left-ruled Kerala government in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) has consistently blamed the Modi government for Kerala's deepening financial woes. Recently, Kerala Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal attributed the "financial crunch" to unfair cuts in Central transfers, the revenue deficit grant, GST compensation, and loan approvals. The Centre denied these accusations.

The conflict hit a new flashpoint on November 25 when Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while in Thiruvananthapuram, denied any negligence in releasing funds to Kerala. And if money had indeed been withheld, it was on account of the State's failure to meet the necessary criteria, she said. She added that the Pinarayi Vijayan government was welcome to move the Court on the matter, but that it would merely offer her another venue to explain "what the story is really."

Ms. Sitharaman's remarks evoked indignant replies from Mr. Vijayan and Mr. Balagopal, who, accompanied by their Cabinet colleagues, are on a State-wide bus tour meeting people. Both alleged that the Union Minister was twisting facts and misleading the public. In a lengthy response, Mr. Balagopal repeated his claim that the State stood deprived of ₹57,400 crore in Central transfers and loan approvals in 2023-24 "compared to the previous fiscals."

At the heart of the latest round of fiscal fisticuffs are a set of payment demands made by Kerala on July 12 and October 7. The State wanted the Centre to quickly release the piled up arrears in payments due under various heads – health grant, the Central share in social security pensions, and the 7th University Grants Commission pay revision arrears. In response, Ms. Sitharaman listed out six components where she said all arrears had been settled. She argued that "not one rupee" had been held back by the Centre, except in instances where the State had failed to fulfil criteria or toe the 15th Finance Commission's recommendations.

Both governments are also wrangling over the 'branding' of centrally aided schemes. The special assistance for capital expenditure has allegedly been withheld on the ground that the Left government changes the names of schemes to claim credit. The Kerala government has protested against this, noting that the Centre's share is often meagre in schemes. In housing, for example, Kerala executes the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in coordination with its own LIFE Mission. Under PMAY (Urban) and PMAY (Gramin), each beneficiary receives an additional State share of 62.5% and 82%, respectively. In the case of the monthly social security pensions paid to over 60 lakh people, only 5.66 lakh receive Central aid, according to the State. The Minister for Local Self-Government M. B. Rajesh wrote a letter to Union Minister for Housing Hardeep Singh Puri contending that affixing branding logos on houses built using public money implies charity and "compromises the dignity and self-respect" of the beneficiaries.

But away from the optics of politics, Kerala's fiscal woes appear very real. While the LDF government accuses the Centre of "financially choking" Kerala for political gain, the Opposition Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) has been critical of the State government's extravagance. Of late, Kerala has struggled to meet its commitments to social security pensioners and farmers. Critics also trace the present troubles to the pay revision for government employees announced in 2021. The revision had come with retrospective effect from July 1, 2019. "If ₹46,754 crore was the required amount to disburse salary and pension during 2020-21, ₹71,393 crore was the required amount for 2021-22. Through this alone, the government has assumed an additional commitment of ₹24000 crore," the 2023-24 State budget noted. To manage the crisis, Kerala will need to control expenditure while capitalising on the positive trends in own revenue (which rose from ₹58,300 crore in March 2022 to ₹71,900 crore in March 2023). More importantly, it will need to present its case convincingly before the 16th Finance Commission to recapture the fiscal space that it claims to have lost.

Indians vulnerable to climate change-induced health issues

Institutions of local self-governance must engage with the climate and health agenda to address the climate crisis

DATA POINT

Indranil and Divya Chaudhry

More than half of India's population, living in 344 districts, face high or very high health vulnerability induced by climate change. People are increasingly being exposed to the effects of climate change, such as prolonged summers, heavy and unpredictable rains, floods and droughts, and rising sea levels and melting glaciers. As a result, they fall ill more often, face a greater risk of future ailments, lose livelihoods, get pushed into poverty, and are forced to migrate. People fight and try to adapt to these changes and prepare themselves better for future events. Vulnerability is a vector produced out of the dynamics between exposure and sensitivity on the one hand and people's ability to adapt or fight on the other.

However, the same exposure may not have the same health consequences for everyone. People who are exposed to higher green cover, have better living conditions, education, secured work, better social safety nets and resilient health systems would be able to adapt to the changes and mitigate the consequences better. People who live on the margins, whose livelihoods are not secured, and who have to pay when someone in the family falls ill will be more vulnerable to these changes.

Though there are certain universal aspects of climate change, the nature of exposure is diverse and localised – within a State, different regions or districts have different levels of exposure. As consequences also vary, vulnerabilities differ. While there must be certain universal strategies, adaptation and mitigation efforts and strategies must be localised.

In a recent paper published in Climate Change, we draw on the vulnerability assessment framework introduced by the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to measure district-level exposures, sensitivities, adaptive capacities (ACs) and health vulnerabilities. We carried out our analysis for all 640 districts of India (Census 2011) and used 50 indicators – 14 for exposure, 20 for sensitivity, and 16 for ACs – from 8 national data sources to construct separate indices for each of the three vulnerability components.

Our findings suggest that 298 districts have high or very high levels of exposure. These districts house around 52% of India's population. Almost 30% of India's population living in 184 districts are faced with very high and high sensitivity. Around 153 districts, where a fifth of India's population lives, have moderate and low AC.

The study also helps us identify the underlying causes of vulnerability which is essential in formulating appropriate multi-sectoral policy responses. For example, increasing public expenditure on health could have a significant impact on reducing out-of-pocket expenditure. Results suggest that poorly developed primary healthcare remains a major factor for high vulnerability in some districts which report high infant mortality rates and poor child health indicators. Robust primary healthcare has shown promise in effectively addressing preventable causes of mortality and morbidity in many States such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Primary healthcare systems also have the potential to address the impending burden of non-communicable and communicable diseases, which is likely to aggravate as a result of climate change. By facilitating early disease diagnosis, primary healthcare can reduce the burden of high-cost tertiary care.

Addressing inequalities in the distribution of various social determinants of health could reduce health vulnerability. Providing sustainable livelihood opportunities, improving working conditions, providing people with social safety nets, and improving the education status of the population and its employability could contribute to reducing sensitivity and enhancing ACs.

Tractable policy action needs a robust, dynamic data system. Our current health system data architecture is weak and incomplete. Institutions with access to data do not often collaborate or share data in public. People within the system hardly trust the data they themselves generate and rarely put the data to use. Further, there is limited compliance from the private sector and a lack of appreciation within policy institutions for evidence-based policymaking.

The climate crisis calls for a radical rethinking of the developmental paradigm. However, none of this can be achieved if institutions of local self-governance are not engaged with the climate and health agenda. The health system, too, should be made more accountable to the people.

Map 1 shows vulnerability index values for 640 districts (0-0.249 indicates low, 0.25-0.49 indicates moderate, 0.5-0.749 indicates high, and 0.75-1 indicates very high vulnerability). Data show that 38 districts have very high vulnerability, 306 districts have high vulnerability, 278 districts have moderate vulnerability, and 18 districts have low vulnerability. The 344 districts with very high and high vulnerability house 56% of India's population. Table 2 shows the top 5 and bottom 5 districts in terms of vulnerability. States with districts in the top 10% vulnerability range are Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, and Arunachal Pradesh. U.P. and Rajasthan alone have 37 and 15 districts, respectively, in the top 10% vulnerability range, M.P. has 3 districts, and Jharkhand and Haryana have 2 each. Punjab, Uttarakhand, J&K, Himachal, and Arunachal have one district each in this category.

Mapping vulnerability

The map and tables were sourced from article 'Climate change and human health: estimating district-level health vulnerabilities in the Indian context' published in *Climatic Change*

Map 1: The map shows the vulnerability index values for 640 districts of India (Census 2011). It is measured on a scale of 0 (least vulnerability to 1 (very high vulnerability)

Table 2 : The table shows the top 5 and bottom 5 districts in terms of vulnerability

Districts with highest vulnerability

S.no.	State	District	Vulnerability index
1	Arunachal	Dibang Valley	1
2	U.P.	Pilibhit	0.9763486
3	M.P.	Dindori	0.9720531
4	U.P.	Baghpat	0.9382899
5	U.P.	Firozabad	0.932923

Districts with lowest vulnerability

S.no.	State	District	Vulnerability index
1	Sikkim	South District (SK)	0.1343192
2	Sikkim	East District (SK)	0.1010449
3	Goa	South Goa	0.0548047
4	Maharashtra	Sindhudurg	0.0133277
5	Goa	North Goa	0

■ 344 districts with very high and high-vulnerability house 56% of India's population

Indranil is Professor, at the School of Government and Public Policy, OP Jindal Global University

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 14, 1973

Madras water supply to be cut

Madras, Dec. 13: In view of the poor rainfall from the North-East Monsoon and the low level in the reservoirs, the Madras Corporation authorities propose to reduce the daily supply of water to the City from 50 million gallons to 25 million gallons. The supply will also be restricted to three hours from 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. instead of six hours spread over morning and evening, from a date to be announced. The Special Officer of the Corporation, Mr. T.V. Antony, to-day appealed to citizens to use municipal water only for drinking and to avoid wastage. The main sources of supply are the Red Hills lake and the Poondi and Cholavaram reservoirs. Mr. Antony listed the following other measures proposed to be taken by the Corporation to meet the situation: to check and repair existing tube wells; to distill and clean the open wells; to sink new open wells and filter points and to increase the fleet of lorries for mobile water supply to tail-end areas. It was also proposed to reduce the supply to domestic consumers by 50 per cent and to major consumers like Port and Railways to the minimum. Mr. Antony said that water supply would be disconnected where it was found that municipal water was still being used for gardens. Applications for new house service connections would not be entertained from January 1 till the situation improved.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 14, 1923

Inspecting workshop

Trichinopoly, Dec. 12: Mr. C.D.M. Hindley, Chief Commissioner for Railways, Mr. A. Muirhead, C.I.E., Managing Director of South Indian Railway, Home Board, Col. E. Barnardiston. R.E. Senior Government Inspector for Railways, seventh circle Madras, with Mr. B.C. Scott Agent, inspected the workshop now under construction on the Golden rocks. They spent over two hours in inspection. This workshop is to be combined for both meter and broad guage costing on the whole 3 crores of rupees according to the estimate prepared about three years ago. Up to 30th September it is said that about a crore of rupees have been spent. Mr. C.D.M. Hindley, Mrs. Hindley and Mr. Muirhead leave for Madras on the 14th morning. Enroute the Chief Commissioner will meet the Railway passengers' association, Tanjore.

From Page One

COP-28 seeks 'transition away' from fossil fuels

On the one hand, delegates from vulnerable nations such as Samoa and the Marshall Islands expressed their unhappiness that the agreement does not go far enough to end fossil fuels, putting the future of their countries at risk. On the other end, several countries – including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Colombia, and Senegal – said that while the agreement was a step forward for a fossil-free future, there was very little movement to ensure that the funds promised by developed countries in previous Conference of Parties (COPs) actually made their way to developing countries.

While mitigating or cutting down greenhouse gas emissions is the main focus of climate talks, there are two other major strands of negotiations: adaptation, which involves making countries more resilient to cope with present and future impacts from climate change; and the means of implementation and support, whereby developed countries are expected to provide financial support and technology to developing nations to transition away from fossil fuel-led development.

A major criticism at the heart of the division between developed and developing countries is that many of the promises made by the former have been broken. A 2009 commitment to mobilise $100 billion a year between 2020 and 2025 has only been partially realised, with the Dubai Consensus agreement noting that this was a matter of "deep regret".

"A global net zero by 2050 does not and should not imply a net zero for all countries at that time. In fact, developed countries need to reach net zero much earlier to provide even a modicum of carbon space for developing countries," said Anand Patwardhan of the University of Maryland.

Smoke canister strike by 2 visitors sets off chaos

The passes were endorsed by Prathap Simha, the BJP MP from Mysore.

The two caught outside Parliament were identified as Latur resident Amol Shinde, 25, and Hisar resident Neelam Devi, 42, who claimed that she was a student unaffiliated with any political party. As she was detained by police, she shouted slogans: "*Tanashahi nahi chalegi* (dictatorship will not be tolerated)", "*Bharat Mata Ki Jai*", and "*Jai Bhim, Jai Bharat*".

A fifth suspect, Vicky aka Vishal Sharma is a Gurugram resident who hails from Hisar, and has also been detained, police said.

All six were in touch with each other through social media applications, including Instagram, and had known each other for more than three years, police sources said, adding that during interrogation, they had claimed to be upset about unemployment and rising prices.

No mobile phone was recovered from the duo caught outside the Parliament; they were not carrying any bags or identity proofs and refused to associate themselves with any organisation, claiming that they were students.

Hours earlier, Mr. Birla, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, former and current Congress chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge were among those who paid floral tribute to the seven Parliamentary security officials and the staff members who were killed in the 2001 attack on Parliament.

Neither Mr. Modi nor Mr. Shah was present in the House when the breach took place, though half a dozen Ministers were in attendance.

(with inputs from Sandeep Phukan)

India votes in favour of immediate ceasefire

The resolution did not include any specific reference to the October 7 terror attacks in Israel by Hamas, the reason India had refused to vote in favour of a similar UNGA resolution on October 27. In the explanation of vote (EoV) delivered on Wednesday, India's Permanent Representative to the U.N. Ruchira Khamboj did not clarify the reason for India's shift but said that India "welcomes" the fact that the international community had been able to find a "common ground" to address the situation in West Asia, where more than 18,000 people had been killed by Israeli operations in the past two months in retaliation for the Hamas attacks in which 1,200 were killed.

When asked about India's vote, the Israeli Embassy in Delhi said it appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "stand with Israel against terrorism" after the attacks.

While the UNGA does not have the power to enforce its resolutions as the UNSC does, it carries the sentiment of the global community against the Israeli bombardment of Gaza that has rendered more than a million people homeless. At the UNGA, the U.S. also proposed an amendment that would insert a specific mention of "heinous terrorist attacks by Hamas that took place in Israel starting 7 October 2023 and the taking of hostages", while Austria proposed an amendment to name Hamas and other groups that are holding Israeli hostages. India voted in favour of them, but both amendments were dropped as they did not receive the votes required.

The final resolution passed said that the UNGA expressed "grave concern over the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip," while demanding an immediate ceasefire.

(With inputs from Kallol Bhattacherjee)

Speaker calls for security review of new Parliament

Home Ministry sets up probe panel; Birla meets floor leaders of all parties; Trinamool seeks action against BJP MP, cites expulsion of Mahua; Opposition parties to meet today at Kharge's office

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Strict watch: Paramilitary personnel keeping vigil outside the Parliament building in New Delhi following the security breach on Wednesday. ANI

Hours after the security breach in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday afternoon, Speaker Om Birla sought a complete security review of the new Parliament building and a high-level inquiry into the incident.

The decisions were taken after Mr. Birla met floor leaders of all political parties in his chamber after two persons jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery and opened smoke canisters.

An official from the Lok Sabha Secretariat told *The Hindu* that the Secretary-General of the House had written to the Home Ministry seeking a complete security review.

Following the letter, the Ministry announced the setting up of an inquiry committee under CRPF Director-General Anish Dayal Singh to probe the breach.

Trinamool's demand

Citing the expulsion of its MP, Mahua Moitra, the Trinamool Congress, at the all-party meeting, demanded action against BJP member Prathap Simha for facilitating the entry of the visitors, who jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber. The two men had entered Parliament on a visitor's pass with Mr. Simha's recommendation.

As an immediate step, passes of visitors have been suspended, said the official. Though there was a discussion on regulating the entry of mediapersons, the Congress leader in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, strongly opposed it.

But the Opposition, especially the INDIA bloc, is likely to escalate the issue and target Home Minister Amit Shah since the Delhi Police comes under the Home Ministry.

Floor leaders of the Opposition parties will meet on Thursday morning at the office of the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge. Several options are on the table, including petitioning President Droupadi Murmu.

> For several days, it has been in the news that a terrorist organisation may attack Parliament on December 13. That is why everyone wants to know why this lapse happened
>
> **ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY**
> Congress leader

At Mr. Birla's all-party meet, several Opposition leaders flagged concerns on the security of the new Parliament. Mr. Chowdhury questioned how the two intruders, who had come as visitors, were allowed to stay beyond their allotted one-hour slot.

He also flagged the issues of crowding at the entry gates used by the MPs and the vacancies in the Parliament security department.

Revolutionary Socialist Party MP N.K. Premachandran pointed out that the security lapse was glaring in the light of threats issued by the U.S.-based Sikh separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, who has been designated a terrorist by India.

"For several days, it has been in the news that a terrorist organisation may attack Parliament on December 13. That is why everyone wants to know why this lapse happened," Mr. Chowdhury asked.

The Congress Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, who was in the House when the incident took place, alleged that not only were the security personnel late in reacting, but also immediate medical facilities were not available.

Hearing a loud thud, MPs first thought someone had fallen

Sobhana K. Nair
Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

It was a slow Wednesday afternoon in the Lok Sabha. The Zero Hour – when MPs can raise issues of national importance – was at its fag end. Several MPs were only half listening and the only ones paying attention were those waiting for their own turn to speak. The lunch hour was approaching and attendance was thin.

A loud thud was heard. Many thought that someone or something had fallen. Within minutes, the atmosphere changed, as yellow smoke enveloped the chamber and an overwhelming dread took over.

The first MP to notice that someone had fallen was Dilip Saikia, a BJP MP from Assam. The intruder fell right next to his seat. "The first thing I saw was him bending over and fiddling with his shoes. I thought he accidentally fell and may have been hurt. But then I realised that he was taking out something from his shoes," Mr. Saikia told *The Hindu*.

He noticed that it was a customised shoe, with a hidden chamber to hold a canister which the intruder took out. Spewing smoke, he began running towards the Chair, leaping over the tables.

Mr. Saikia and a group of fellow MPs – the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party's Hanuman Beniwal, the BJP's S.S. Ahluwalia, the Congress's Gurjeet Singh Aujla, the Bahujan Samaj Party's Malook Nagar, and the Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Arvind Sawant – were the first to react.

Ominous sign

From his seat in the second row, Mr. Beniwal saw a man leaping over the tables, shouting something. "I caught hold of this person and then others joined me. He pleaded with us. 'Sir, don't hit me', he said, saying that he is only here for protest," he said.

A protest coinciding with the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament attack, Mr. Beniwal added, was a very ominous sign.

The MPs were not in the mood to spare the intruders.

"None of us could think straight at that moment. The only thought we had was that he may have weapons in his hand. So, we beat him up and immobilised him so that he could not reach for those," said Mr. Nagar, the BSP MP.

Mr. Beniwal added that there was a woman in the visitors' gallery egging on the two intruders.

The second intruder, surrounded by MPs, also bent over to remove his shoe. He withdrew a canister and the chamber filled with fluorescent smoke as the MPs overpowered him. It was only then that the security personnel stormed in to take custody of the intruders.

Should not compare it with 2001 terror attack, says BJD MP

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Among the handful of MPs who have witnessed both the 2001 attack on Parliament and the security breach on Wednesday, is Bhartruhari Mahtab of the Biju Janata Dal. He said that while both incidents exposed serious flaws in security, they were different in nature.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Mahtab said in 2001, when five Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists attacked Parliament, it was a "gate-crash". "They were all from Pakistan, other than Afzal Guru who was in Delhi. Nine security personnel lost their lives as did the terrorists. The attack was on the outside, although we heard gunshots within," he said.

"What happened today was a security breach. Those apprehended were Indians. At least two had cleared four barriers of security to get into the Lok Sabha chamber. This is a grave issue but should not be compared with 2001," he said. "My apprehension, however, is that this would have been an incident of a far graver nature if the gas had been of a poisonous nature," he said.

Mr. Mahtab said he was in the Lok Sabha when one of the intruders jumped, landing near Assam MP Dilip Saikia. "Within a minute he could access the canister in his shoe," he added. After the yellow coloured smoke came out, he added, the second intruder also jumped, but by then the MPs had started moving towards the intruders to apprehend them.

Panel on security defunct for five years; Opposition MPs raise concern

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

Many Opposition members have been raising concerns over the security arrangement at the new Parliament building since it started functioning in September with a Special Session to pass the women's reservation Bill.

The MPs had written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar seeking a thorough probe into the incidents of political sloganeering from the visitors' gallery during the Special Session.

In the wake of Wednesday's security breach, Opposition MPs said that despite their requests, the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Security in Parliament Complex had not been reconstituted during the 17th Lok Sabha.

The MPs have also been complaining against alleged "political bias" in providing visitors' gallery passes and the increased presence of private security guards on the Parliament premises, replacing the dedicated security staff of Parliament and other Central police forces.

Trinamool Congress MP Sougata Ray, who was a member of the joint committee during the 16th Lok Sabha, said, "Speaker Sumitra Mahajan used to head the panel. I don't know if this committee is functioning now or not."

DMK MP Tiruchi Siva, who was a member of the earlier panel, said he had apprised the Rajya Sabha Chairman about the committee not being formed. "The panel functions under Lok Sabha Speaker. Had it been functional, we would have raised the pre-

Visitors for the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha galleries are sent through two different gates

sence of private security people and their role in Parliament security. The committee should be reconstituted immediately and these issues like Wednesday's security breach should be discussed," he said, adding that the Centre was not even ready to make a statement in Parliament on the issue. "We demanded a statement by Home Minister Amit Shah on the issue and it was rejected," Mr. Siva said. The Opposition walked out of the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday afternoon seeking an explanation from the government.

The new Parliament has a five-tier security arrangement for visitors. The entry is restricted through the reception near the Rail Bhavan. Before reaching the reception, the visitors are checked by the security staff on Raisina Road. Before entering the reception, all electronic gadgets, wallets, and bags of visitors are to be deposited in a cloak room. The visitors are checked by the security at the reception and after verifying the passes again, they are checked once again near the entry gate of the new building. Visitors for the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha visitors' galleries are sent through two different gates. At each gate, the visitors are checked by the Parliament security staff and other security personnel. At the gate of the visitors' gallery too, the visitors are checked.

My son's act is condemnable, says Manoranjan's father in Mysuru

Laiqh A. Khan
MYSURU

The parents of Manoranjan, 33, a resident of Mysuru who was involved in the security breach at the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, expressed shock over their son's act and strongly condemned it.

Father Devaraj, a farmer, and mother Shylaja, a homemaker, were both unanimous in condemning their son's act but vouched for his good behaviour and conduct.

Speaking to presspersons outside their house in Mysuru, Mr. Devaraj said, "My son has never harmed anybody. He was very fond of reading and was interested in doing a lot of social work."

A video grab showing a visitor jumping from the visitor's gallery of Lok Sabha. ANI

After completing his engineering degree from a college in Bengaluru in 2013, Manoranjan began assisting his father in agricultural activities. Mr. Devaraj owns farmlands at Mallapura village in Hassan district's Arakalgud taluk.

'Admired Modi'

"He would accompany me to the farms, where he would stay for about a week or fortnight," Mr. Devaraj said. Though his son was frequenting Bengaluru and Delhi, he had not discussed the same with his family members. However, Mr. Devaraj said he was confident that his son was not part of any undesirable activities.

Responding to queries, Mr. Devaraj said his son admired Prime Minister Narendra Modi and was of opinion that the country was fortunate to have him as its Prime Minister.

With regard to his son obtaining a pass to the Lok Sabha visitors' gallery from Pratap Simha, Mr. Devaraj said they were voters of the BJP MP from Mysuru. "Even I have a good rapport with Mr. Simha," he claimed. "One should not find fault with Pratap Simha for providing my son with a pass to enter Lok Sabha as he had given it for a good purpose," he added.

Mr. Devaraj added that he condemned such an intrusion into the 'temple' of democracy by his son.

RS passes Bill to set up tribal varsity in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill and the Repealing and Amending Bill on Wednesday. The Lok Sabha had cleared both Bills earlier. While the former is to establish a tribal university in Telangana, as promised in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, the latter is to repeal 76 "obsolete" laws.

APPEAL

My husband, Charly Santhosh J, is battling neuromuscular paralysis that requires extensive medical treatment beyond our means. He needs to undergo treatment that would cost 10 lakhs approx. The medical expenses are overwhelming, and I humbly seek your generous donation to cover vital medications and ensure his recovery.

Cheques / Demand drafts may please be drawn favouring **SRM Institute For Medical Science** and may be sent to SIMS Hospital (Next to Vadapalani Metro Station) No.1, Jawaharlal Nehru Salai (100 Feet Road), Vadapalani Chennai – 600 026, Tamilnadu, India (Ph: 044 2000 2001) **Patient name, Charly Santhosh J, IP number 131643, Axis Bank Account No: 919020084238828, IFSC Code: UTIB0002559.** Please mention the patient's name and IP number while donating. Your generosity will be deeply appreciated.

Suganya S
9384614272

Mohan Yadav sworn in as Madhya Pradesh CM

Jagdish Devda and Rajendra Shukla take oath as Deputy CMs; Modi, Shah, Chouhan and CMs of BJP-ruled States attend ceremony; Cabinet expansion after consultation with central leadership

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Mohan Yadav was sworn in as the 19th Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh in Bhopal on Wednesday. Jagdish Devda and Rajendra Shukla took oath as Deputy Chief Ministers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP national president J.P. Nadda, and former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan were among the dignitaries present at the ceremony that took place at the Lal Parade Ground here.

Governor Mangubhai Patel administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Yadav, Mr. Devda and Mr. Shukla.

The Chief Minister is expected to expand his Cabinet following consultations with the central leadership of the BJP.

Grand event: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav in Bhopal on Wednesday. A.M. FARUQUI

Show of strength

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and Mahrashtra Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar were also present at the ceremony.

Among the Union Ministers present at the event were Nitin Gadkari, Jyotiraditya Scindia and Faggan Singh Kulaste.

Mr. Yadav, a three-term MLA from Ujjain-Dakshin (South) and a prominent Other Backward Class (OBC) leader in the State, was chosen as the BJP Legislature Party leader on Monday at the meeting of party's MLAs.

His name had come as a surprise for many as he was picked by the BJP's central leadership surpassing various other senior leaders.

New Cabinet imposes curbs on open sale of meat, egg

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

In his first Cabinet decision after taking charge of the Madhya Pradesh government, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Wednesday banned the use of loudspeakers beyond permissible limits and time at all religious and public places.

Addressing a press conference, he said that directions had been issued to ensure regulation of the sale of meat and eggs in open spaces as per the Food Safety Act and the guidelines of the Centre.

He said an excellence college will be opened in all 52 districts of the State.

The government has increased the purchasing rate of Tendu leaves from ₹3,000 per bag to ₹4,000 per bag, he said.

Vishnu Deo Sai takes charge as fourth Chhattisgarh CM; two deputies also sworn in

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Vishnu Deo Sai on Wednesday took oath as the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. Mr. Sai, a tribal leader from Jashpur, is the fourth Chief Minister of the State.

State BJP president Arun Sao and general secretary Vijay Sharma took oath as Deputy Chief Ministers in a brief swearing-in held at the Science College ground here.

The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, among others.

Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Sai and his two deputies.

No other Ministers were sworn in, a script similar to what happened in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh. Speaking to presspersons earlier, senior BJP leader Narayan Chandel said the Cabinet would be expanded soon and it would be a balanced one. In the results declared 10 days ago, the BJP won 54 seats in the 90-member Assembly, and the State Cabinet can have a maximum of 13 Ministers, including the Chief Minister. This leaves the challenge of balancing caste, gender and regional equations for the BJP.

New start: Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai waving to the crowd during the swearing-in ceremony, in Raipur on Wednesday. ANI

After the ceremony, the three leaders went to Mahanadi Bhawan, the State Secretariat, and formally assumed charge.

Tight security

Besides BJP leaders from across the country, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma, former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh and party leaders from other States attended the event which saw a gathering of around 50,000 people amid tight security. Former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and former Deputy Chief Minister T.S. Singh Deo were also present. Mr. Baghel was seen shaking hands with Mr. Modi on the stage after the event.

This is the first time the swearing-in was held at the Science College. Apart from the crowd absorbing capacity, the venue holds symbolic value for the BJP as this was where Mr. Modi formally launched the party's election campaign in July with the slogan "We will change the government this time".

Bhajan Lal to take oath as Rajasthan CM tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

BJP leader Bhajan Lal Sharma will be sworn in as the 14th Chief Minister of Rajasthan at a ceremony here on December 15.

Deputy Chief Ministers Diya Kumari and Prem Chand Bairwa will also take the oath of office at the ceremony.

The swearing-in ceremony will be held outside Albert Hall in Ram Niwas Garden. BJP State president, C.P. Joshi, said on Wednesday that the invitations were being extended to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, BJP national president J.P. Nadda and Chief Ministers of party-ruled States. Mr. Joshi said the newly elected BJP MLAs and party workers from all over the State would also attend the function.

Mr. Joshi addressed a meeting of the BJP district unit presidents and senior office-bearers and gave instructions regarding the ceremony. Mr. Sharma had called on Governor Kalraj Mishra on Tuesday to stake the claim to form the government.

SC judgment won't affect our position on Ladakh, says China

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court's verdict on Article 370 will not impact the Chinese position on Ladakh, a spokesperson for the Chinese government said on Wednesday, arguing that the western part of the India- China border has "always belonged to China".

The Supreme Court had on Monday upheld the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, leading to the reorganisation of the full-fledged State of Jammu and Kashmir to two Union Territories and removing its special privileges.

"China has never recognised the so-called Union Territory of Ladakh set up unilaterally and illegally by India. India's domestic judicial verdict does not change the fact that the western section of the China-India border has always belonged to China," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said, in response to a question on the verdict.

The remarks reflect China's consistent position on the region that it had stated also in the immediate aftermath of the abrogation when it had protested calling the move a "unilateral revision of domestic laws".

Pakistan's caretaker Foreign Minister, Jalil Abbas Jilani, had criticised the order and said, "International law doesn't recognise India's unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019. The judicial endorsement has no legal value ."

Earlier, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Tuesday had expressed concern about the Supreme Court's decision.

The Ministry of External Affairs has rejected the OIC's statement. "That OIC does so at the behest of a serial violator of human rights and an unrepentant promoter of cross border terrorism makes its action even more questionable," said Arindam Bagchi, spokesperson, Ministry of External Affairs. The Ministry has however not commented on China's remarks.

India welcomes Dubai consensus even as new flanks open

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Amid the global consensus at Dubai to transition away from fossil fuels, India welcomed the agreement though new avenues of opposition may have opened that it will have to address in future climate negotiations.

"We support the proposal of the Presidency on the COP decision document while reiterating the fundamental principles enshrined in the Paris Agreement to take action for global good in accordance with national circumstances," Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said on Wednesday.

Over the years, India's position has been that it is a large, developing country that accounted for 3% greenhouse gases emitted historically (1850-2019) compared to the United States (25%) and European Union (17%). However, India is the third-largest greenhouse-gas emitter. This had led to calls that for keeping global temperatures from rising beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial era, major polluters – India and China despite their developing

Bhupender Yadav

country status – too had to reign in their emissions. Since then, India while steadfast in its position that it needed to exploit its most abundant energy resource, coal, has also embarked upon expanding its solar and wind energy capacity to produce electricity and commit to a net zero state by 2070.

However at the Glasgow COP in 2021, it agreed – under immense pressure and along with other countries – to a 'phase-down' of coal use. India has protested against the singling out of coal, when several countries, including developed ones, have been silent about their expanded use and production of oil and gas. On Wednesday, when the gavel came down on COP-28, both oil and gas were officially accorded the same degree of villainy as coal. However, language from the Glasgow COP of "accelerating the phase-down of unabated coal power" remains.

The Dubai Consensus, however, for the first time brings in mention of methane, a non-carbon dioxide greenhouse gas that is more potent, in its heat trapping effect, than carbon dioxide. While the global conversation around reducing methane deals with emissions from industrial processes, nearly 75% of India's methane emissions are from the agricultural sector. "There is no differentiation in this text on industrial and agricultural methane and those could be bones of contention for the future," said Vaibhav Agrawal, Fellow, Council on Energy Environment and Water.

Other analysts say, the text gave a free pass to natural gas, designating it as a "transition gas" that could be relied on during countries' transition to renewable energy. "The reference to "transitional fuels" explicitly gives gas producing countries the licence to sell more gas rather than invest in renewable energy," said Ulka Kelkar, Executive Director, World Resources Institute.

CJI to consider Moitra's request for urgent listing of petition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Wednesday said he will look into a request by Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra's lawyers to urgently list a petition filed in the Supreme Court against her expulsion from Lok Sabha.

Responding to an urgent oral mentioning, the Chief Justice told senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, appearing for Ms. Moitra, to send an email. "Please send it. I will look at it right away," the Chief Justice said.

Mr. Singhvi urged the Chief Justice for a listing in the next two days as the Supreme Court was closing for vacations.

The Trinamool Congress leader was expelled from the Lok Sabha on December 8 over cash-for-query allegations.

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536789/26096834 Fax: 080-25536105

IFT No.KMF/ENGG/NHMPP Air Comp./1772/2023-24 Dt.11.12.2023.

TENDER NOTIFICATION [Two cover System] [Through KPP Portal only]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender through Karnataka Public Procurement portal for the works mentioned in the below table. The interested and eligible firms may participate in the tender by logging on to website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in & also contact Help desk No.-080 23010900/23010901 E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty	EMD (Rs.)	Period of completion
1	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of VFD driven 200 CFM, Atlas Copco Oil free Air Compressor with inbuilt integrated drum dryer and accessories complete for NHMPP, Kanva, Ramanagara	1 Job	2,00,000/-	6 Months

1) Tenders may be downloaded from dated 14.12.2023 to 28.12.2023 up to 4-00 PM. 2) Last date for Tender submission on 28.12.2023 up to 4.00 PM 3)Tender [Part 1] to be opened on 29.12.2023 at 4:30 PM. 4) Pre-bid meeting will be held on 20.12.2023 at 11.30 AM
Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on e-procurement portal only.

For Karnataka Co-Op. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

Government of Tamil Nadu
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
NABARD AND RURAL ROADS, CIRCLE, Salem - 7
TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No. 17/2023-24/SDO/Dated: 12.12.2023

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamilnadu Percentage Tender through online only will be received upto **19-01-2024, 15.00 hours** (as per system server clock) by the Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD & Rural Roads, Salem Circle under the scheme CRIDP for the year 2023-2024 - Forming Bypass road to Namakkal town Km.6/0-12/0 (Phase -III) in **Salem** (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Division

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **15.12.2023** onwards in the Government web site **http://tntenders.gov.in** If any changes/ Corrections etc in the tender, it will be published on the above website only.

Superintending Engineer (H)
NABARD and Rural Roads Circle, Salem - 7

DIPR/6610/Tender/2023

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
THIRUCHIRAPPALLI CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE CIRCLE

TENDER NOTICE

T.N.No.54/2023-24/HDO/Dated: 12.12.2023

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Percentage tender through online only** will be received upto **03.01.2024, 14.00 hours** (Server Time) by the Superintending Engineer (H) C&M Thiruchirappalli Circle, Thiruchirappalli-20 for CRIDP 2023-24 Scheme works, **1 CMRDP work and 1 CRIDP** work pertaining to **Pudukkottai** (H) C&M Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **15.12.2023** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** If any changes / Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H),
C&M Circle, Thiruchirappalli -20.

DIPR/6603/TENDER/2023

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur-760004
e-mail id : se_sicbam@yahoo.com
e - Procurement Notice No. ACE, RBB- 12 / 2023-24

1. Type of Work : **System Improvement (Road Work).**
2. Total No. of Works : **01 (One)** No.
3. Amount put to Tender : **Rs.819.63 Lakh**
4. Period of Completion : **12 (Twelve) Calendar months**

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Availability & Submission of Bid On-line
Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur	ACE, RBB (BEID)-22/2023-24	819.63	From **20.12.2023, 10.00 AM** to **04.01.2024, 5.00 PM**

Date of opening of the Technical Bid :- **05.01.2024 at 11.30 A.M.**
Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website "**www.tendersodisha.gov.in**".

Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur

A-1003: OIPR-32411/11/0016/2324

G20 ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE
आर्मर्ड व्हीकल्स निगम लिमिटेड
भारत सरकार का उद्यम
रक्षा मंत्रालय

AVANI सर्वाः प्रदिशो जयेम
CIN-U35990TN2021GOI145504

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
ARMOURED VEHICLES NIGAM LIMITED
A GOVT. OF INDIA ENTERPRISE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

ENGAGEMENT OF PROFESSIONALS ON FIXED TERM CONTRACT BASIS

CORRIGENDUM

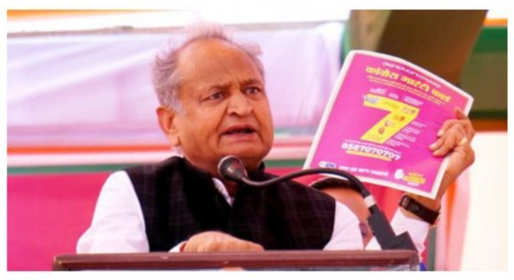
The amendment for the advertisement on Engagement of Professionals on Fixed Term Contract Basis (16 Posts) is as under –

Last date for receipt of Application at AVNL CO is 21 days from the date of publication of advertisement in employment news. (Date of Publication of advertisement in employment news is 23.12.23)

HR Division, AVNL
email: hr@avnl.co.in
Tele : 044 – 26843338/26843348

Chennai
Dated: 14.12.2023

INBRIEF



Gehlot's plea dismissed over summons in defamation case

Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea by former Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot challenging a magistrate court's order in which he was summoned as an accused in a defamation case filed by Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) M.K. Nagpal noted that prima facie, Mr. Gehlot made allegations against Mr. Shekhawat to ''derive political benefit" and defame him. Judge Nagpal, in a detailed order, also upheld the orders of the magistrate court through which the Delhi Police was ordered to conduct an investigation.

On ED's plea, Mahadev betting app promoter held in Dubai

The Dubai police have detained Ravi Uppal, a key accused in the Mahadev Online Book betting app case. Indian authorities are in touch with their counterparts in the UAE to secure his custody. Mr. Uppal was apprehended a few days ago on the Enforcement Directorate's request via the Ministry of External Affairs and the Interpol. Along with another app promoter Sourabh Chandrakar, Mr. Uppal is facing money laundering charges in cases registered in Chhattisgarh and Mumbai. The ED suspects the total crime proceeds amount to ₹6,000 crore.

Road fatalities rise in India, despite global drop: WHO

Road traffic deaths fell by 5% worldwide between 2010 and 2021 but rose 15% in India, says report; crashes were the leading cause of deaths among children and youth aged five to 29 years

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Road traffic deaths fell by 5% to 1.19 million annually worldwide between 2010 and 2021, with 108 United Nations member countries reporting a drop, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a report. India, however, registered a 15% increase in fatalities.

The total number of road traffic fatalities in India went up to 1.54 lakh in 2021 from 1.34 lakh in 2010, the 'Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023' said.

Ten countries succeeded in reducing road traffic deaths by over 50%. These are Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Denmark, Japan, Lithuania, Norway, Russian Federation, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela. Thirty-five countries made notable progress, reducing road traffic deaths by 30% to 50%.

As of 2019, road crashes were the leading cause of deaths among children and youth aged five to 29 years, and were the 12th leading cause of deaths when all ages are considered. Two-thirds of deaths occurred among people of a working age.

In the past decade, a 5% reduction in absolute numbers of road traffic fatalities was accompanied with a growth in the global population by nearly 14 billion, or roughly 13%.

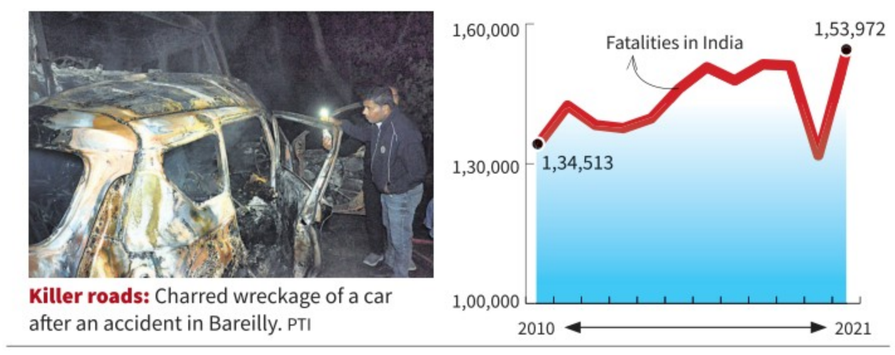
This translates into the road fatality rate declining from 18 per 1 lakh people in 2010 to 15 per 1 lakh in 2021, which represents a 16% decline in the road traffic death rate since 2010.

Vehicle growth

The report also noted that during the same period, the global motor vehicle fleet grew 160%. Therefore, annual fatality rates per 1 lakh vehicles fell from 79 deaths to 47 deaths, which is a 41% reduction.

The report shows that 28% of global road traffic deaths occurred in the WHO's South-East Asia Region, 25% in the Western Pacific Region, 19% in the African Region, 12% in the Region of the Americas, 11% in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, and 5% in the European Region.

"Nine in 10 deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, and fatalities in these countries are disproportionately higher when set against the number of vehicles and roads they have. The risk of death is three times higher in low-income than high-income countries, yet low-income countries have just 1% of the world's motor vehicles," the report said.



SC holds arbitration deals in unstamped contracts to be valid

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A seven-judge Constitution Bench on Wednesday held that arbitration agreements embedded in unstamped or insufficiently-stamped substantive commercial contracts or instruments are not invalid, unenforceable or even non-existent.

The Supreme Court judgment gives a significant shot in the arm for India's ambition to become an international arbitration hub to quickly resolve commercial disputes. Earlier, arbitrations on such disputes had struck a roadblock owing to non-payment of the required stamp duty for or insufficient stamping of contracts by the parties.

"Arbitration aims to provide speedy, efficient, and binding resolution of disputes that have arisen between the parties in regard to their substantive obligations," the court noted.

Delivering the lead opinion in a curative petition overruling an earlier five-judge Bench verdict of the Supreme Court in the *N.N. Global* case, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud held that "non-stamping or inadequate stamping is a curable defect".

The Chief Justice clarified that arbitration agreements would not be non-existent, unenforceable, or invalid if the underlying contract was not stamped. The judge said non-payment or insufficient stamping of contracts under the Stamp Act would not affect arbitration proceedings under the Arbitration Act. Such contracts were only inadmissible in evidence under the Stamp Act.

'Self-contained code'

"Arbitration Act is a self-contained code... Accordingly, matters governed by the Arbitration Act such as the arbitration agreement, appointment of arbitrators and competence of arbitral tribunal to rule on its jurisdiction have to be assessed in the manner specified under the law... Therefore, provisions of other statutes [Stamp Act] cannot interfere with the working of the Arbitration Act, unless specified otherwise," the Chief Justice wrote.

The court said an arbitration agreement is presumed to have separate existence from the contract.

'New Delhi Declaration' on artificial intelligence adopted

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Following several hours of deliberations, representatives from 28 countries and the European Union adopted the "New Delhi Declaration" of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI, pronounced g-pay). India is hosting the summit, and will chair the GPAI grouping in 2024. The ministerial declaration affirms the countries' commitment to "principles for responsible stewardship of trustworthy AI ... rooted in democratic values and human rights ... and promoting trustworthy, responsible, sustainable and human-centred use of AI".

GPAI is a grouping of countries in North and South America, Europe, and East Asia, which strive to work towards "trustworthy development, deployment, and use of AI". Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the first day of the summit.

The declaration affirms the countries' commitment to 'principles for responsible stewardship of trustworthy AI'

The previous summit was held in Japan, which is the outgoing chair of GPAI. "We have also agreed that GPAI, in keeping with values of partner-countries, will be an inclusive movement, including countries in the Global South and make benefits of AI available to all the people of the world," Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar told reporters as the government announced the release of the declaration.

The previous summit had taken place before the popularity of ChatGPT and the buzz around AI grew exponentially, Mr. Chandrasekhar said. The Delhi Declaration commits countries to work on mitigating "concerns around misinformation and disinformation, unemployment, lack of transparency and fairness, protection of intellectual property and personal data, and threats to human rights and democratic values".

'Best possible solutions'

"We will discuss how to pool OECD resources to harness the ability to come up with the best possible solutions for the deployment and governance of AI for the good of our people," Jean-Noël Barrot, France's Minister for Digital Transition and Telecommunications, told reporters.

"We especially think GPAI should be more inclusive so that we encourage more developing countries to join," Hiroshi Yoshida, Japan's Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination (International Affairs) in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, said.

Curb freebies doled out to doctors by pharma firms: panel

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A five-member committee headed by NITI Aayog member Vinod K. Paul has suggested the Union government to bring in restrictions on freebies offered to doctors by pharma companies.

Disclosing the price of branded gifts doled out to doctors with the gift's value not exceeding ₹1,000; prohibiting continuous medical education (CME) workshops for doctors in foreign locations; making the money received by medical practitioners from pharmaceutical companies to conduct research taxable are among key measures suggested by the panel upon reviewing the Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP).

The panel has recommended that while the UCPMP should remain voluntary in nature, it must be modified. A voluntarily-followed UCPMP will not be enforceable under law, and pharmaceutical companies may not be penalised for violations.

The 100-page report, which was submitted to the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, says the value of "brand reminders", including books, calendars, diaries, journals (including e-journals, dummy device models of body organs, medical books, and clinical treatment guidelines) should not exceed ₹1,000 per item.

In the case of free drug samples, tax should be deducted at source for the company under the Income Tax (I-T) Act if their value exceeds ₹20,000 per year. "The Central Board of Direct Taxes may examine threshold as percentage of sales instead of ₹20,000 in case of free samples," the panel said.

EPFO releases FAQ on higher PF pension implementation

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

More than a year after the Supreme Court's verdict on higher Provident Fund pension, the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has sent to all its units a set of frequently asked questions (FAQ) on implementing the verdict.

Trade unions and employers' representatives have been seeking clarity from the EPFO on the matter, especially on accessing the past records of an employee while validating the joint options seeking higher pension based on higher wages. The FAQ document answers nine questions on the implementation of the Supreme Court verdict.

The EPFO says that the FAQ document is an updated version, but members of the EPFO's Central Board of Trustees (CBT) said they had been demanding a set of FAQs for many months.

Thanking Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav for issuing the FAQ, K.E. Raghunathan, CBT member representing the employers, said, "If this was issued a few months back, it would have saved the confusion among the pensioners and also the EPFO officers." The workers' representative in the CBT, A.K. Padmanabhan, also welcomed the FAQs.

The document answers nine questions.

On documentary evidence that must be attached along with the joint option, the EPFO has clarified that the following should be there – details of the employer's share of PF contribution remitted with employee's pay exceeding the prevalent statutory wage ceiling of ₹5,000/₹6,500/₹15,000 per month; the certificate that the administrative charges payable by employer have been remitted; and proof that the PF account of the employee has been updated with interest in accordance with the employees' pension scheme on the basis of their contribution received. The FAQ document also maintains that it will be the duty of the concerned officers to collect all the relevant certificates from the employers.

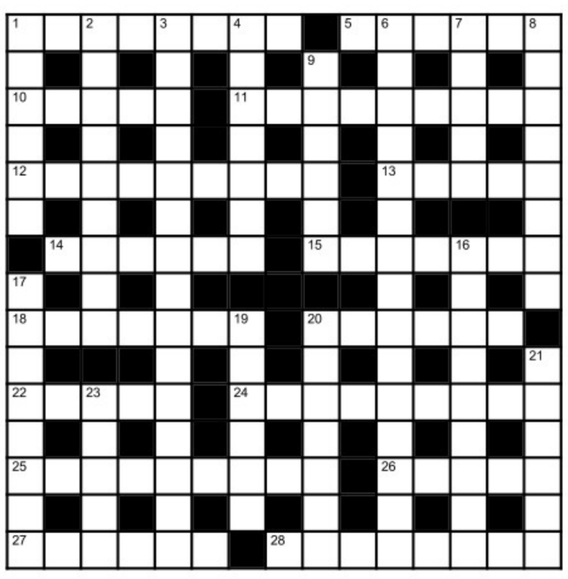
It says that the date of commencement of pension will determine the applicable formula for calculation of pensionable service, pensionable salary, and pension. The pensionable salary of an applicant will be calculated based on the average monthly pay drawn during the contributory period of service in the span of 60 months preceding the date of exit from the membership of the pension fund.

TH CROSSWORD + 14045

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Balance my rest and my shifts (8)
5 District top cop called Rose (6)
10 Unconventional grid leading to extreme lament (5)
11 Fellow for scene recreated in real life (3-6)
12 At sea, it's mostly clear on edge of the land (9)
13 Language spoken in Hungary regularly by leaders of interslavic communities (5)
14 Heavy Metal's so strangely silent about one! (6)
15 Fanatic's difficult to kill (3-4)
18 Magnify number for a permit (7)
20 Not a day without poor, poor limp! (6)
22 Crown's somewhat anti-Arab (5)
24 Record and watch tree transforming over time (9)
25 Hard part of face of revolutionary English King, bold and single! (9)
26 I bail out with this! (5)
27 Supported structure let on a condition (4-2)
28 He-man's abrupt last learning (8)

Down

1 Second reason, not the first, to trap (6)
2 It's normal kind of wrong (6,3)
3 Pick most opulent, most boring, mostly protein based diet and something to keep body warm (15)
4 Kind of mid-hour Heavy Metal (7)
6 Playing cupid, Potter's engaging coach? Beautiful! (15)
7 A mere mortal and a Muslim noble (5)
8 Gone crazy, dice rolled...mass murder (8)
9 Off the subject, failing, failed! (6)
16 Small software program, popular one for making a cocktail (9)
17 So cut it back with calm, almost straight (8)
19 Mixed drink for example going around without iota of ice (6)
20 Most sleepy party, one without enjoyment (7)
21 Making effort is difficult (6)
23 Part of Aadhaar enabled sector (5)

SUDOKU

7								8
		6	9			7		
1		3		7	5			
3	8			1				
		9		4		1		
				3			2	9
			1	8		9		7
		2			7	3		
9								6

No.SS6007 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

E	Q	U	A	T	I	O	N	
M		N		H		R		
P	I	T	H	E	A	D	S	
I		E		M		E		E
R	A	N	G	E		R	E	M
E		A				E		I
	A	B	O	A	R	D		T
O		L		R				T
P	R	E	M	I	E	R		C
E				S		O		A
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T	R	E	A	T	Y		D	I
O		A		L			E	
R	A	T	H	E	R		P	R

F	A	C	T	O	R			
		T		R		E		
S	T	R	E	S	S			
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A	I	N	D	E	R			
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T	S	U	N	A	M	I		
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B	A	D	G	E				
	L		M		A			
I	V	I	D	E	N	D		
E		N		N		E		
P	R	E	D	A	T	O	R	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	3	6	1	2	4	8	9	5
5	2	4	8	6	9	3	7	1
8	9	1	7	5	3	6	4	2
4	6	7	5	1	8	9	2	3
9	5	2	4	3	6	1	8	7
3	1	8	9	7	2	4	5	6
1	4	3	2	8	7	5	6	9
2	8	5	6	9	1	7	3	4
6	7	9	3	4	5	2	1	8

FAITH

Manikavachakar's devotion

A few people are lucky to be born and raised under comfortable circumstances. Of them, even fewer would seek God and spend their life singing His glory. Manikavachakar was one such. One of the four *samaya-kuravars* (Fathers of the Faith), he sought and prayed for a guru. All he wanted in life was to be offered the privilege of being counted as a devotee of Siva, said Suchithra Balasubramanian in a discourse.

"Rid me [of the cycle of births] and induce me into the field of Your devotees," he prayed. "Come forward and bestow on me the gracious privilege of abiding amidst your servants that my heart's purpose be fulfilled." So pure was his devotion that God accepted him and took him under His fold.

Born in Tiruvathavoor in the Pandya kingdom, Thennavan Brahmmarayar as he was called, was highly knowledgeable. Like a jasmine's fragrance spreading everywhere, news of his erudition spread far and wide, including King Arimardhanan, who made him his prime minister. With his mind always on God, he spent all the royal funds in building a temple for the Lord. Lord Siva who has tested him thus also saved him from royal wrath by sending jackals as horses, thus enacting a Divine Sport. The Lord also anointed him with the name of Manikavachakar.

INBRIEF

No proposal for special sops to EV players like Tesla: Govt.

The Centre on Wednesday said it had no plans to exempt firms like Tesla and other global car producers from value addition norms, or offer them lower import duties for bringing electric vehicles into the country. "Presently, there is no proposal either to provide exemption from local value addition cost or to provide subsidy on import duty on import of electric vehicle in India," Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som Parkash said replying to a query.

Clear guidelines for SEBI compliances soon: Kamath

India Inc. will soon have clear guidelines in place to comply with markets regulator SEBI's regulations, said K.V. Kamath, who heads The Industry Standards Forum. The Forum is currently developing, on a priority basis, the compliance benchmarks for the recently introduced requirement of verification of rumours by listed entities, the new listing obligations and disclosure requirements and the ESG assurance mandates prescribed by SEBI.

TVS Eurogrip exhibits tyres for construction segment

TVS Eurogrip, which is into manufacture and export of two-wheeler, three-wheeler and off-highway tyres, exhibited its latest offerings for the construction segment at Excon 2023.
Tyres for a wide range of applications such as soil compactors, skid steer loaders, back hoe loaders, industrial tractors, wheel loaders, dump trucks, motor graders are being showcased at the show being held in Bengaluru till December 16, the company said in a statement.

Centre revives plan to simplify GST rates

Govt. rejigs group of ministers on rates' simplification after long pause; while there are four main GST rate slabs, there are a dozen in practice

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

In a clear signal that the GST rate rationalisation exercise is back on the Centre's agenda after being in deep freeze, the government has reconstituted the ministerial group of the GST Council that was tasked with recommending the simplification of the complex tax structure and a rejig of its multiple rates.

The group of ministers (GoM) on GST rate rationalisation, which was headed by former Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai since its formation in 2021, had been in suspended animation since the BJP's loss in the State's assembly elections this May.

Top revenue officials had indicated in early 2023 that the GST rates' rejig and simplification, long-awaited by the industry, was off the table for a while. Karnataka's revenue minister Krishna Byre Gowda has been included in the reconstituted ministerial group, but the convenor's role for the seven-member GoM has now been assigned to Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna.

While there are four main GST rate slabs of 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%, there are about a dozen different rates in practice, while some goods attract a zero rate. This is further complicated as some items whose tax rates depend on their packaging, like specified food products, or selling prices, for instance, in the case of footwear and hotel rooms.

Back in play

The agenda of rationalising GST rates re-enters policymakers' radar with the Centre reconstituting a ministerial group

- Centre includes Karnataka's revenue minister Krishna Byre Gowda in the reconstituted ministerial group
- Officials in 2023 indicated GST rates' simplification, long-awaited by the industry, was off the table for a while

- Tax experts, industry leaders argue that too many rates lead to tremendous compliance-related problems

Long pending demand

Tax experts and industry captains have been urging the government to restart the stalled rate rationalisation plan, especially as GST revenues have stabilised at a healthy ₹1.6 lakh crore-plus level in recent months.

"I think the ministerial group's reconstitution indicates that the GST rate restructuring and simplification agenda are back on policy makers' radar," said Sacchidananda Mukherjee, professor at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy. "Too many tax rates lead to tremendous compliance-related problems," he further added.

"The government also understands the need to simplify the rate structure so that price-based tax setting goes away and the multiple rates are reduced for ease of tax compliance for industry as well as the Revenue Department, while giving investors more certainty," he averred.

The GoM, whose terms of reference remain unchanged, may also make recommendations on the future of the GST Compensation Cess.

At its last meeting in October, the GST Council initiated parleys on a "perspective plan" to impose a cess or surcharge on top of GST levies after March 2026, when the GST Compensation Cess is due to expire.

Last week, Confederation of Indian Industry president R. Dinesh told *The Hindu* that it was time to simplify the GST rates to a three-slab structure to make it easier to do business and reduce litigations arising from classification disputes. He also called for a review of the GST Compensation Cess.

FM moves legislation to hasten setting up GST appellate bodies

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The GST regime had provisions to set up a second authority for hearing appeals against orders

Setting the stage to clear the final hurdle holding up the formation of GST Appellate Tribunals, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday introduced amendments to the Central Goods and Services Tax Act of 2017 in the Lok Sabha to align its provisions with the Tribunal Reforms Act of 2021.

The proposed changes which relate to the eligibility criteria for members and the President of the tribunals, once approved by Parliament, will facilitate the initiation of "the administrative process for operationalisation of the GST Appellate Tribunals at the earliest", the FM said.

The GST regime, launched in July 2017, had provisions for setting up the Appellate tribunals as the second appellate authority for hearing appeals against orders passed by the Appellate Authority under the Central and State GST laws.

Investments in India can rarely go wrong, says Piyush Goyal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday urged international investors to include India into their global value chains, offering them a guarantee of fair competition, transparency and equal treatment.

Speaking at the World Investment Conference hosted by the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies, Mr. Goyal said that the government's effort was to widen market access for Indian and global companies.

"We invite you to make India part of your resilient and inclusive global value chains. I am confident that an investment made in India, can very rarely, if at all, go wrong," Mr. Goyal said.

"What we offer is a guarantee of fair competition, equal treatment, public interest and transparency over everything else... a large domestic demand, coupled with export opportunities can help you enjoy the fruits of economies of scale," Mr. Goyal added.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	69,585	0.04
US Dollar	83.40	-0.03
Gold	61,820	-0.12
Brent oil	73.70	0.16

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2875.05	17.40
Adani Ports	1063.50	21.55
Apollo Hosp	5426.75	-2.20
Asian Paints	3243.65	18.90
Axis Bank	1114.85	-16.15
Bajaj Auto	6316.10	61.90
Bajaj Finserv	1684.55	-22.20
Bajaj Finance	7258.00	-56.55
Bharti Airtel	999.90	4.65
BPCL	447.50	-0.05
Britannia Ind	4919.30	16.25
Cipla	1216.50	17.85
Coal India	345.20	-2.30
Divis Lab	3656.00	8.40
Dr Reddys Lab	5598.65	58.30
Eicher Motors	4032.75	81.00
Grasim Ind	2083.95	3.20
HCL Tech	1369.20	-6.10
HDFC Bank	1630.90	-3.70
HDFC Life	698.20	-9.15
Hero MotoCorp	3863.30	116.15
Hindalco	532.85	5.40
Hind Unilever	2511.90	9.15
ICICI Bank	1013.90	-1.80
IndusInd Bank	1506.90	9.90
Infosys	1449.00	-27.05
ITC	455.65	2.55
JSW Steel	851.40	-2.45
Kotak Bank	1826.20	1.85
L&T	3399.80	57.40
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5727.50	-30.50
M&M	1666.15	30.75
Maruti Suzuki	10380.05	41.65
NestleIndia	25044.40	97.25
NTPC	294.05	10.65
ONGC	193.15	-2.25
PowerGrid Corp	236.95	5.60
Reliance Ind	2433.95	9.90
SBI Life	1466.80	-14.65
State Bank	619.85	7.45
Sun Pharma	1233.10	15.10
TataConsumerProduct	957.30	8.55
Tata Motors	720.30	4.90
Tata Steel	131.40	1.30
TCS	3593.55	-78.55
Tech Mahindra	1216.10	-10.05
Titan	3602.35	30.95
UltraTech Cement	9739.15	-124.35
UPL	599.35	1.65
Wipro	419.65	-2.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 13

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.21	83.53
Euro	89.68	90.03
British Pound	104.17	104.58
Japanese Yen (100)	57.12	57.35
Chinese Yuan	11.59	11.63
Swiss Franc	94.98	95.36
Singapore Dollar	61.92	62.17
Canadian Dollar	61.23	61.47
Malaysian Ringitt	17.68	17.76
Australian Dollar	54.53	54.75

Source:Indian Bank

FM proposes law to curb speculation on tax proposals

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nirmala Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced a Bill in Parliament on Wednesday to repeal the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, 1931, and replace it with a new law to enable the government to give immediate effect to hikes in customs and excise duties on goods without changing their tariff classifications.

"Assume, if in the Finance Bill, we bring in some kind of a tax proposal and it gets announced in the Budget. But the financial year by which it gets passed, if there are critical announcements made on customs or any other tax, it can lead to a lot of speculation," the minister explained, proposing The Provisional Collection of Taxes Bill, 2023.

"By invoking this Act, we're able to temporarily ensure, till the time the Finance Bill is passed, no speculative activities" take place, she added.

RoDTEP: U.S., EU slap countervailing duties on four Indian goods

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The products for which CVD has been determined include paper file folders and graphite electrodes

The U.S. and the European Union have now imposed countervailing duties (CVD) on four Indian products, as a retaliation against the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme introduced for outbound shipments in January 2021.

The products for which countervailing investigations have been conducted and a final determination of CVD has been made include paper file folders, common alloy aluminum sheet and forged steel fluid end blocks by the U.S. and certain graphite electrode systems by the European Commission (EC), Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel said on Wednesday.

"The Indian government and the affected exporters have strongly defended the subsidy allegation against various programs & schemes of the government, both at Central & State level, in their written and oral responses during the conduct of investigations," she noted.

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KERALA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (KINFRA)

Addendum

An addendum for the Tender No: KINIITP/RFP-01/2023-24 for selection of consultant has been published on website www.kinfra.org. Please visit website for more information. The last date of submission is extended upto 28/12/2023, 5.00 PM

Place: Thiruvananthapuram
Date : 13/12/2023
Sd/-
Managing Director

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
HEALTH OFFICE, TTD, TIRUMALA. e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

2nd call e-tenders are invited for Sanitation maintenance of Tirumala areas under Ward-II (mentioned at Tender document) under the control of the Health Department, TTD, Tirumala for a period of 24 months (2 Years) under work contract mode duly taking the account of Labour-cum-Mechanization cleaning wherever possible and Material supply **(i) Number of Labour (ii) Materials (iii) Minimum machinery deployment (iv) Additional service on special occasions and (v) Responsibility of execution of work.** For tender documents and scope of work of each ward separately log on to the web site **http://www.tirumala.org** and **http://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. Last date for submission of tender is 25-12-2023.** For further details contact Phone Numbers:**0877-2263686, 9866132451 & 9985233509** and mail ID:**ttdhealthoffice@gmail.com.**

Roc.No.PR4/13961/Adv.No.295/PRO/2023, Dated:13-12-2023 — **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

महाराजा गंगासिंह विश्वविद्यालय, बीकानेर
निविदा सूचना

विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा रद्दी बेचान हेतु निविदा जारी की गयी हैं, जिनके यूबीएन **GSU2324GLOB00044** हैं। निविदा से संबंधित विस्तृत जानकारी **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**, ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** भी पर उपलब्ध है।

राज.संवाद/सी/23/11503 — कुलसचिव

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 3rd Retender WRD/KWA- CEP/TR/97/022_26_2_1/2. **JJM - Phase IV** - WSS to Kidangoor - Pumping and Transmission - Package 1 - Pipeline Work. **EMD :** Rs. 5,00,000/-, **Tender fee :** Rs. 16540+(2978)GST, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 29-12-2023, 03:00 pm, **Phone :** 04812562745.
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-1821-2023-24 — **PH Circle, Kottayam**

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD.
e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)

TSSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of **(a)** FO Cables, HDPE Pipes, LIU Boxes, and Patch cards, **(b)** 11 KV 220V DC feeder VCBs with CTs (W/o CRPs & IED relays) **(c)** 33KV 220V DC 1600A feeder VCBs with CTs (W /o Control & relay panels), **(d)** 7.3KV 220 KVAR Capacitor Cells **(e)** 8 MVA Power Transformers and **(f)** 12.5 MVA Power Transformers **(g)** 8.0 m/140 kgs PSCC Poles to various circles of Mahaboobnagar stores on e-tender platform; And disposal for disposal of **(h)** Survey reported PTRs and **(i)** Copper scrap (BTW) on as is where is basis through e-Auction website. For further details of each item above, please visit **www.tssouthernpower.com**, **www.tender.telangana.gov.in** and **www.auction.telangana.gov.in.** Phone: 040-23431360, 1033, 1035, 1026.

DIPR R.O.No.8626-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2023-24 Dt. 13.12.2023 — Sd/- CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&MM)

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES DIVISION I AJMER

No. 2513-17 — Date: 05.12.2023

E-NIT no - 06/2023-24

On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, bid is invited from eligible bidders for the work "Rehabilitation of Kodia Sagar and Surkheli Sagar Minor Irrigation sub-project District Ajmer RWSLIP" Rs 203.13 Lakh up to 06:00 PM on dated 11.01.2024 and technical bid will be opened on dated 12.01.2023 at 3:00 PM.
Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.

NIB no: WRD2324A0578
UBN no: WRD2324WSOB1691
DIPR/C/15714

Executive Engineer
Water Resources Division I
Ajmer

Wheels India Limited
Regd Office : 21, Patullos Road, Chennai – 600 002
CIN : L35921TN1960PLC004175
Phone : 044-2623 4300; Fax : 044-26257121
Website : www.wheelsindia.com

Invites offers from interested parties for purchase of Mild Steel scrap items, for the two month period JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024.

Details of the items available for disposal and tender terms and conditions can be had from the Company on written request.

Sealed offers can be submitted to the **Sr. Vice President (Supply Chain),** Wheels India Limited, Padi, Chennai - 600 050 **to reach on or before 29th DECEMBER 2023.**

SIDDHA REGIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(CCRS, Ministry of Ayush, GoI)
Kuyavarpalayam, Puducherry – 605013.
Email: recruitments.srripdy@gmail.com Phone: 0413 – 2245072

Advt. No. : 07/2023 — **Date: 14.12.2023**

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Walk-in interviews for the Posts of SRF (Biochemistry/Biotechnology) and JRF (Biochemistry) for the projects EMR and IMR – SVK respectively scheduled on 6th December 2023 stands postponed to **26th December 2023** on account of cyclone. Details of the projects, essential qualifications, eligibility criteria and application formats are available at the Central Council for Research in Siddha website **www.siddhacouncil.com.** Interested candidates may walk-in along with their original certificates from 9.00 a.m on interview day.

Assistant Director (S) S IV & I/c

NATIONAL BRAIN RESEARCH CENTRE
(Deemed University)
NH-8, Manesar-122052, Dist.- Gurgaon (Haryana)

Admissions to Ph.D. and M.Sc. (Neuroscience) programmes –2024

NBRC invites applications for admission to Ph.D. and M.Sc. (Neuroscience) programmes.

NBRC admits students with diverse academic backgrounds that include various branches of Life Sciences, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Statistics, Medicine, Pharmacy, Veterinary Science, Psychology, Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Communications Engineering, Computer Science and Information Technology.

Ph.D. Programme

Candidates can take any of the following qualifying examinations:
1. Joint Graduate Entrance Examination for Biology and Interdisciplinary Life Sciences (JGEEBILS- December 2023)
2. Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE-2023/GATE-2024), only for selected subjects.
3. Joint Entrance Screening Test (JEST-2024)
4. Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) examination in selected subjects conducted by CSIR/UGC/DBT/ICMR
5. UGC-NET qualified on/after Dec 2022

M. Sc. Programme

Candidates need to take Joint Graduate Entrance Examination for Biology and Interdisciplinary Life Sciences (JGEEBILS-December 2023) examination.
Candidates who join the M.Sc. programme will have option to continue in the Ph.D. programme upon fulfilling the required criteria.
For detailed information for admission through each of the above qualifying examination, please visit our website: **http://www.nbrc.ac.in/html/nbrc/index.html**
For any other admission related queries, send email to **admissions@nbrc.ac.in**

IMPORTANT DATES

1.	NBRC Online application opens	13th December 2023
2.	Last date for receiving application at NBRC for M.Sc. programme	31st March 2024
3.	Last date for receiving application at NBRC for Ph.D. programme	16th May 2024

SANITATION WATER AND COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT
निदेशालय – स्वच्छ परियोजना, उदयपुर
बडी रोड (हवाला खुर्द) पुलिस अन्वेषण भवन के आगे, उदयपुर (राज.) 313001
Email: directorswach@rajasthan.gov.in, swachhoudaipur@gmail.com
Contact No. 9509869140

क्रमांकः एफ ( )/निविदा/निदे0/स्वच्छ/2023–24/ — दिनांकः

बोली सूचना संख्या – 20/2023.24

UBN – SWP2324WLSS00075, SWP2324WSSS00076, SWP2324WLSS00077, SWP2324WLSS00078, SWP2324WLSS00079, SWP2324WLSS00080, SWP2324WLSS00081, SWP2324WSSS00082, SWP2324WSSS00083, SWP2324GLSS00084, SWP2324GLSS00085, SWP2324GLSS00086

जनजाति क्षेत्रीय विकास विभाग अन्तर्गत स्वच्छ परियोजना के एम.टी.एस सेन्टर निर्माण कार्य रेलावास, किशनगंज जिला बारां साथ ही प्रशिक्षण बेग, खेल सामग्री एवं जलोत्थान सिंचाई योजना हेतु पाईप सप्लाई संबंधित कार्य हेतु ई–बोली सूचना एवं बारां जिले में आंगनवाडी केन्द्र निर्माण, सहरिया आवास निर्माण, हेल्थ केयर सेन्टर, मां बाडी केन्द्रो पर अतिरिक्त कक्षा कक्ष निर्माण कार्य करवाये जाने हेतु EOI दिनांक 13.12.2023 से 26.12.2023 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त बोली से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाईट **www. sppp. rajasthan. gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखी जा सकेगी।

निदेशक

'Coca-Cola to invest ₹3,000-cr. in Gujarat'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB), and the Government of Gujarat have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, signalling a major investment of ₹3,000 crore.

The MoU demonstrates HCCB's commitment to establish a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility for juice and aerated beverages in Rajkot by 2026, said the company.

The venture will help take HCCB's total labour strength in the State to more than 1,500, the company said.

M&M, other investors to infuse ₹875 cr. in Classic Legends

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) on Wednesday said the company, along with external investors, will invest ₹875 crore in ts two-wheeler unit Classic Legends Pvt. Ltd. (CLPL).

CLPL owns brands like Jawa, Yezdi and BSA, and operates in the fast-growing premium motorcycle segment in India.

"External investors, along with M&M will invest ₹875 crore, investors ₹350 crore and M&M ₹525 crore, over the next 2-3 years, to build a strong business," the Mumbai-based auto major said in a regulatory filing.

Premium player: CLPL owns brands like Jawa and Yezdi and operates in the fast-growing premium motorcycle segment. PTI

Post the aforesaid investment, M&M would continue to hold 60% of the paid-up equity share capital of CLPL, it added.

On a standalone basis, CLPL had reported revenue from operations at ₹709.74 crore for the financial year ended March 31, 2023.

It had brought back the Jawa motorcycle brand in the domestic market in 2018 and Yezdi last year.

M&M shares were trading 2.02% up at ₹1,667.15 apiece on the BSE.

ROME

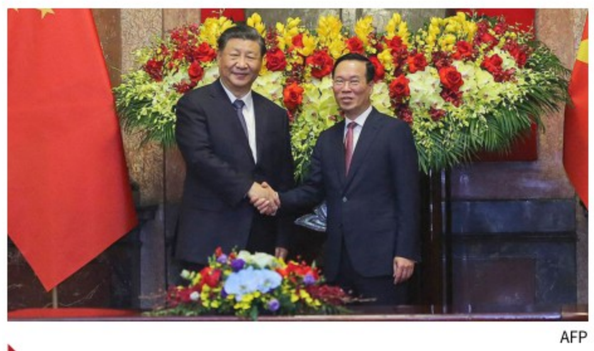
Pope wants to be buried in the Rome basilica, not in Vatican

REUTERS

Pope Francis wants to be buried in the Rome basilica of St. Mary Major, not in the grottoes of the Vatican like other popes, so he can be near his favourite icon of the Madonna. Francis, who turns 87 on Sunday, said he never thought about resigning despite a series of health scares. He also has a trip coming up to Belgium next year. AP

HANOI

China and Vietnam must oppose attempt to mess up Asia-Pacific: Xi



AFP

China and Vietnam should oppose any "attempt to mess up Asia-Pacific", President Xi Jinping said during a trip to Hanoi, as Beijing seeks to counter expanding U.S. influence. The two nations committed to deeper ties and signed more than 30 agreements, including a pledge to develop rail links between the countries.AFP

WARSAW

Pro-EU leader Donald Tusk sworn in as Poland's new Prime Minister

AFP

Poland's President swore in Donald Tusk as the new pro-EU Prime Minister, putting an end to eight years of right-wing populist rule. Tusk, a veteran politician who already served as Premier in the past, has pledged to restore Poland's position in the EU and to double down on efforts to provide more aid to neighbouring Ukraine. AFP

DHAKA

Opposition BNP cannot oust the govt. by killing people: PM Hasina

AFP

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that the main opposition BNP cannot "oust" her government by killing people. On Monday, a train was derailed while several trucks and buses were torched amid unrest over the January 7 elections, being boycotted by the main Opposition BNP led by former PM Khalida Zia. PTI

Nine Israeli troops killed in ambush as Gaza battle rages

Israeli troops are still locked in heavy combat with Hamas fighters in and around Gaza City; over 18,400 Palestinians have been killed and 85% of Gaza's population forced out of their homes

Associated Press
RAFAH

Palestinian militants ambushed Israeli troops in a dense Gaza City neighbourhood, killing at least nine of them, the military said on Wednesday, as Hamas put up stiff resistance in areas that Israel has isolated and pounded with airstrikes for over two months.

The air and ground war has killed thousands of Palestinian civilians and pushed nearly 85% of Gaza's population from their homes, sparking international outrage.

More than six weeks after Israeli soldiers invaded Gaza's north in the wake of Hamas' October 7 attack, ground troops are still locked in heavy combat with Palestinian fighters in and around Gaza City. Clashes raged overnight and into Wednesday in multiple areas, with especially heavy fighting in Shijaiyah, a dense neighbourhood that was the scene of battle during the 2014 war between Israel and Hamas.

Tall cost: Pallbearers carry the coffin of Lieutenant Colonel Tomer Grinberg at his funeral in Jerusalem on Wednesday. REUTERS

Troops who were searching a cluster of buildings in Shijaiyah on Tuesday lost communication with four soldiers who had come under fire, the military said. When the other soldiers launched a rescue operation, they were ambushed with heavy gunfire and explosives.

Among the nine dead were Col. Itzhak Ben Basat, 44, the most senior officer to have been killed in the ground operation, and Lt. Col. Tomer Grinberg, a battalion commander.

Heavy rainfall overnight swamped camps in Gaza's south, where Israel has told people to seek refuge.

Because of the fighting and Israel's blockade of Gaza, the health care system and humanitarian aid operations have collapsed in large parts of the territory, and aid workers have warned of starvation and the spread of disease among displaced people.

Over 18,400 Palestinians have been killed, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza.

Sunak avoids leadership challenge as deportation Bill passes early vote

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak got through a potential rebellion in the Conservative Party, after he managed to keep enough party members on his side to see through an early stage parliamentary vote on a controversial Bill to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda .

The Safety of Rwanda Bill passed its second reading in the British House of Commons on Tuesday night by a majority of 44 (313 to 269). Despite the majority, 38 of Mr. Sunak's party colleagues either abstained or could not attend the vote. There were just under 30 abstentions, suggesting trouble for the Prime Minister in the coming weeks as the Bill faces further votes in Parliament.

Mr. Sunak had pledged to "stop the boats" earlier this year, with some

Rishi Sunak

46,000 people crossing the English Channel in "small boats" in 2022. The Rwanda legislation is a response to a November ruling from the U.K. Supreme Court that said the (former) Rwanda policy of the U.K. government was unlawful.

'Not a safe country'

The court had said Rwanda was not, for now, a safe country to which the government could relocate asylum seekers . It also said the policy would put the U.K. on the wrong side of domestic and international law. The new Bill defines Rwanda as a safe country – contrary to the court's verdict. It also allows MPs to ignore certain judgements form the European Court of Human Rights.

Those on the right flank of the Conservative Party wanted the Bill to go further – such as to fully exclude the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), as they argued that the Bill in its current form would fail to be effective. Some right-wing MPs, who abstained, planned to vote against the Bill during a third reading in January.

Chairman of the European Research Group (ERG) of right-wing Conservative MPs, Mark Francois, said Mr. Sunak had committed to considering amendments.

"The Prime Minister had said he would entertain tightening up the Bill. We're taking him at his word," Mr. Francois told the BBC.

The more centrist among the Tories – such as members of the One Nation Group of MPs – have been concerned that tightening the Bill any further would risk the U.K. running afoul of international and domestic humanitarian law.

Labour's promise

Leader of the Opposition Labour Party, Keir Starmer, has said he will repeal the Bill if it is voted through and if Labour comes to power.

Opinion polls have given Labour close to a 20-point lead over the Conservatives. A YouGov poll conducted in the hours before Tuesday's vote saw Mr. Sunak's favourability drop to its lowest point -49, with 7 in 10 Britons saying they had an unfavourable view of the Prime Minister.

IMF clears second tranche of $337 mn for Sri Lanka

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cleared the second tranche – about $337 million – of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to Sri Lanka, based on the debt treatment plan drawn up by the crisis-battered island nation and its bilateral creditors.

"Sri Lanka's agreements-in-principle with the Official Creditors Committee and Export-Import Bank of China on debt treatments are consistent with the EFF targets. They are an important milestone putting Sri Lanka's debt on the path towards sustainability," a senior official in Washington told a virtual press conference late on Tuesday.

With the second tranche coming in, Sri Lanka has received about $670 million of the total $3 billion it hopes to receive from the Fund, to recover from last year's historic financial crash that put citizens through acute shortages and long power cuts, while pushing the country into bankruptcy.

In November, Sri Lanka reached an "agreement-in-principle" with India and the Paris Club group of creditors, including Japan, to recast its debt owed to them. China, too, is said to have agreed to treat its Sri Lanka loans on comparable terms. The government is yet to make the terms of either agreement public.

"A swift completion and signature of the Memoranda of Understanding with the official creditors is important," the IMF said.

While China, India and Japan are Sri Lanka's top three bilateral creditors, the largest chunk of the island's debt, accumulated through International Sovereign Bonds (ISBs), is owed to private creditors. Emphasising the need for "timely implementation" of the agreements with the official lenders, the Fund also urged Sri Lanka to reach a resolution with external private creditors "on comparable terms".

Commendable progress

Meanwhile, the Fund noted that Sri Lanka has made "commendable progress" towards restoring debt sustainability, raising revenue, rebuilding reserves buffers, reducing inflation, and safeguarding financial stability. "Strong commitment to improving governance and protecting the poor and vulnerable remains critical," the IMF said. In addition to higher, mostly across-the-board indirect taxes, citizens are struggling to keep up with spiralling utility bills, especially electricity, following a three-fold increase in rates. The Ceylon Electricity Board recently said it disconnected some five lakh power connections owing to non-payment of bills by consumers.

Biden backs Ukraine, warns against allowing Putin to win

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

I will not walk away from Ukraine and neither will the American people, says U.S. President

U.S. President Joe Biden told President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Tuesday that the U.S. will not abandon Ukraine in its desperate fight against Russia, even as Republicans signalled opposition to extending U.S. war funding.

Standing alongside the Ukrainian leader at a White House press conference, Mr. Biden vowed: "I will not walk away from Ukraine and neither will the American people."

And he said that allowing a Ukrainian defeat would mean Russian President Vladimir Putin "and would-be aggressors everywhere will be emboldened."

Mr. Zelenskyy, who spent the morning talking to Republicans and Democrats in Congress, signalled cautious optimism that the stalled U.S. aid flow will restart.

'Positive signs'

"I got the signals. They were more than positive. But we know that we have to separate words and particular results. Therefore we will count on particular results," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

Sport

Shambolic United, Sevilla consigned to the sidelines in Europe

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Associated Press
PARIS

The Champions League proved too tough for Manchester United and Sevilla. Now, even the consolation Europa League spot is out of reach. Both teams were eliminated from European competition on Tuesday night to finish bottom of their groups.

Three-time Champions League winner United needed to beat Bayern Munich at home and hope for a favourable result in the other Group A game but lost 1-0 to the six-time winner.Instead, unheralded Danish side Copenhagen qualified in second place after beating Turkish

Killer blow: Bayern's Coman dumps United out of Europe with this strike. GETTY IMAGES

team Galatasaray 1-0 at home. Galatasaray finished third to qualify for the Europa League knockout round playoff above last-place United.

Defending Europa League champion Sevilla lost 1-2 at Lens to finish bottom of Group B as the French team finished third.

The results: Lens 2 (Frankowski 63-pen, Fulgini 90+6) bt Sevilla 1 (Ramos 79-pen); PSV 1 (Vertessen 50) drew with Arsenal 1 (Nketiah 42); Napoli 2 (Saatcı 9-og, Osimhen 33) bt Sporting Braga 0. Union Berlin 2 (Volland 45+1, Kral 85) lost to Real Madrid 3 (Joselu 61, 72, Ceballos 89); Inter Milan 0 drew with Real Sociedad 0; Salzburg 1 (Sucic 57) lost to Benfica 3 (Di Maria 32, Rafa 45+1, Cabral 90+2); Manchester United 0 lost to Bayern Munich 1 (Coman 71); Copenhagen 1 (Lerager 58) bt Galatasaray 0.

Andre Russell returns, helps WI draw first blood

Agence France-Presse
BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

Veteran all-rounder Andre Russell (three for 19 and 29 n.o.) made a dazzling return to international cricket to help West Indies cruise to a four-wicket victory over England in the opening T20I here on Tuesday. Handed a shock recall after a two-year absence, Russell shone with bat and ball.

The scores:

England 171 in 19.3 overs (Phil Salt 40, Jos Buttler 39, Liam Livingstone 27, Andre Russell 3/19) lost to West Indies 172/6 in 18.1 overs (Kyle Mayers 35, Shai Hope 36, Rovman Powell 31 n.o.). *WI leads five-match series 1-0.*
Toss: WI; **PoM**: A. Russell.

Poonacha helps Strikers roar back into contention

TPL

Sports Bureau
PUNE

Niki Poonacha came up with a sterling performance, especially in beating the country's No.1 Sumit Nagal 12-8, serving thunderbolts, that powered Hyderabad Strikers to a 46-34 victory over Gujarat Panthers in the Tennis Premier League here on Wednesday.

Ellen Perez gave a strong start for two-time champion Hyderabad with a 13-7 win over Karman Kaur Thandi. She later combined with Saketh Myneni to beat Karman and Mukund Sasikumar 11-9. Niki and Saketh consolidated the position by playing a 10-10 doubles tie against Sumit and Mukund.

The win brought Hyderabad back in the race for the semifinals, and brought down Gujarat which had led overnight along with Bengal Wizards.

Saviours: Niki Poonacha and Saketh Myneni helped Hyderabad stay alive. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In another match, Arina Rodionova helped Bengaluru Mavericks to a 44-36 win over Pune Jaguars. Vishnu Vardhan was equally efficient, winning mixed doubles with Arina and doubles with Ramkumar Ramanathan.

Conny Perrin and Arjun Kadhe were instrumental in driving Punjab Tigers past Delhi Binny's Brigade to a 43-37 victory that put the team on top with 84, one point ahead of Bengaluru.

The results (league):

Hyderabad Strikers bt Gujarat Panthers 46-34 (Ellen Perez bt Karman Kaur Thandi 13-7; Niki Poonacha bt Sumit Nagal 12-8; Ellen & Saketh bt Karman & Mukund Sasikumar 11-9; Niki & Saketh tied Sumit & Mukund 10-10).

Bengaluru Mavericks bt Pune Jaguars 44-36 (Arina Rodionova bt Diana Marcinkevica 15-5; Ramkumar Ramanathan lost to Lucas Rosol 7-13; Arina & Vishnu Vardhan bt Diana & Rithvik Bollipalli 11-9; Ramkumar & Vishnu bt Lucas & Rithvik 11-9).

Punjab Tigers bt Delhi Binny's Brigade 43-37 (Conny Perrin bt Sahaja Yamalapalli 11-9; Digvijay Pratap Singh lost to Dennis Novak 9-11; Conny & Arjun Kadhe bt Sahaja & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 11-9; Arjun & Digvijay bt Dennis & Jeevan 12-8).

DAZZLING DUO

Prasidh performs hat-trick and Pradosh sizzles on day three

PTI & R.V. MOORTHY

Prasidh Krishna's hat-trick and Pradosh Ranjan Paul's 163 (209b, 23x4, 1x6) highlighted day three of the first 'Test' at Potchefstroom. **The scores:** SA-A 319 in 98.1 overs (du Plessis 106, Harmann 95, Prasidh 5/43, incl. a hat-trick) vs India-A 377/6 in 77.2 overs (Pradosh 163, Sarfaraz 68, Shardul 70 batting).

PLAYING BY THE RULES

Khawaja won't wear shoes with Gaza messages: Cummins

AFP

Usman Khawaja will not wear shoes with messages highlighting the plight of people in Gaza when the first Test against Pakistan begins on Thursday, captain Pat Cummins said. During training this week the 36-year-old opening batsman Khawaja had hand-written slogans "Freedom is a human right" and "All lives are equal" on his footwear.

WATCH AND LEARN

Ashwin has been one of my biggest coaches: Nathan Lyon

AFP

Nathan Lyon said his spin twin R. Ashwin is someone he has watched closely from the start of his career and he has been one of his biggest coaches. "Ashwin is a world-class bowler and somebody I have watched closely from the start of his career. Without knowing it he has probably been one of my biggest coaches in a way," Lyon said.

THRILLER

Thalaivas pull off a stunning win in close encounter against Titans

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tamil Thalaivas and Telugu Titans were involved in a close battle in a PKL Season 10 contest in Bengaluru before the former played its cards well in the final phase to register a 38-36 victory. Narender top-scored for Thalaivas with 10 points. Bengaluru Bulls registered a 32-30 win over Jaipur Pink Panthers in the other match of the day.

India needs to get its act together in final T20I

Press Trust of India
JOHANNESBURG

The Indian bowlers will come under sharp scrutiny in the team's effort to merge the immediate task of levelling the series and the distant target of finding an ideal combination for next year's T20 World Cup during the third and final match against South Africa here on Thursday.

Arshdeep Singh and his colleague Mukesh Kumar were carted around by Reeza Hendricks, leaking 15.50 and 11.33 runs per over.

Rain and dew made their task a bit tough at Gqeberha but the pair lacked the imagination or control while bowling in a rather unfavourable environment.

India needs to get its act together on Thursday to prevent a series loss in the early part of a tough tour.

The teams (from):

India: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan (wk), Jitesh Sharma (wk), Ravindra Jadeja (Vice-capt.), Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Siraj, Mukesh Kumar and Deepak Chahar.

South Africa: Aiden Markram (Capt.), Ottniel Baartman, Matthew Breetzke, Nandre Burger, Donovan Ferreira, Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Andile Phehlukwayo, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs and Lizaad Williams.

Match starts at 8.30 p.m. IST.

England will hope to foil dream start to Harmanpreet's legacy as a Test captain

India could look for a two-seamer-three-spinner combination, given that any sign of grass on the wicket was meticulously removed over the course of the day; Heather Knight's England, meanwhile, features players comfortable with red ball cricket

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Lavanya L
NAVI MUMBAI

When there is an 802-day gap between two Test matches, one can't fault the Indian think tank for struggling to strike a balance between backing proven warhorses and picking horses for courses for the one-off Test match at the D.Y. Patil Stadium here from Thursday.

England features players comfortable and excited about red ball cricket – from Knight herself to Tammy Beaumont, who comes into this Test after a scintillating 208 in the Trent Bridge Test earlier this year.

England's trump card, though, is undoubtedly Sophie Ecclestone, who romps into this game as an automatic starter with seven wickets in three games in the recently concluded T20I series. When India and England sparred in the Bristol Test, Ecclestone took eight wickets to leave India struggling for air after which Sneh Rana and Taniya Bhatia pulled off a marvellous rescue act.

Maia Bouchier looks primed to partner Beaumont, given the hard yards she put in at the nets. Sophia Dunkley – who has been woefully out of form for far longer than she would like – might not be out of the picture, given the added option of leg spin she provides. Lauren Filer's 116 kmph rippers make her a good candidate to make the England XI and might help her edge out namesake Lauren Bell.

"The heat and humidity means conversations of an extra batter and extra bowler come up and we're leaning towards an extra bowler," Knight said

Only Harmanpreet and Smriti Mandhana remain from the 2014 side that faced South Africa. India's selection choices may look simple or challenging depending on what the coach and captain want to prioritise in this game.

Given that any sign of grass on the wicket at the D.Y. Patil Stadium was meticulously shaved off over the course of the day, India could look for two-seamer-three-spinner combination, falling back on the tried and tested trio of Deepti Sharma, Sneh Rana and Rajeshwari Gayakwad. Renuka Singh and Pooja Vastrakar can saddle pace duties.

England is set to play its 100th Test match, which will make it the first nation to get to the mark. With a more assured and seasoned outfit, Knight and Co. might have a slight edge over the home team.

Wide open: India's selection choices may look simple or challenging, depending on what the coach and captain want to prioritise in this game. EMMANUAL YOGINI

> If there is one bowler, she knows she will play but if there is a back-up they will know if they don't do well someone else will take their place
> HARMANPREET

> I am desperate to win a Test match. It'll be satisfying to have a good four days and then wind up with a win and head home for Christmas
> KNIGHT

The teams (from):

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Harleen Deol, Shubha Satheesh, Meghna Singh, Pooja Vastrakar, Yastika Bhatia, Richa Ghosh, Sneh Rana, Saika Ishaque, Renuka Singh, Titas Sadhu and Rajeshwari Gayakwad.

England: Heather Knight (Capt.), Alice Capsey, Danni Wyatt, Sophia Dunkley, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Tammy Beaumont, Bess Heath, Amy Jones, Maia Bouchier, Lauren Bell, Kate Cross, Charlotte Dean, Sophie Ecclestone, and Lauren Filer.

Match starts at 9.30 a.m.

Shami nominated for Arjuna Award, Satwik-Chirag for Khel Ratna

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Pacer Mohammed Shami has been nominated for this year's Arjuna Award, while the men's doubles badminton pair of Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were nominated for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.

As per the ministry's sources, a special request was made by the BCCI to the sports ministry to include Shami's name as he originally didn't figure in the list.

The nominees:

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award: Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty (badminton).

Arjuna Award: Mohammed Shami (cricket), Ajay Reddy (blind cricket) Ojas Pravin Deotale, Aditi Gopichand Swami (archery), Sheetal Devi (para archery), Parul Chaudhary and M. Sreeshankar (athletics), Mohd Hussamuddin (boxing), R. Vaishali (chess), Divyakriti Singh and Anush Agarwalla (equestrian), Diksha Dagar (golf), Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Sushila Chanu (hockey), Pinky (lawn ball), Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (shooting), Antim Panghal (wrestling) and Ayhika Mukherjee (table tennis).

Dhyan Chand Lifetime Award: Kavita (kabaddi), Manjusha Kanwar (badminton) and Vineet Kumar Sharma (hockey).

Dronacharya Award: Ganesh Prabhakaran (mallakhamb), Mahavir Saini (para athletics), Lalit Kumar (wrestling), R.B. Ramesh (chess) and Shivendra Singh (hockey).

Skipper Rohit motivated for World Cup redemption

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Rohit Sharma had no clue if he would ever get over the disappointment of the World Cup final defeat but the love and understanding of fans has now "motivated" him to make an earnest shot at another ultimate glory.

While Rohit didn't mention which ultimate glory he is talking about but it is fairly believable now that he is looking at leading India in next year's T20 World Cup in the West Indies and USA.

"I had no idea how to come back from this for the first few days. It was my family, friends that kept me going. It wasn't easy to digest but life moves on and it wasn't easy to move on," said Rohit.

"People coming up to me and telling me that they were proud of the team made me feel good. Along with them, I was healing as well."

Ton-up Rana powers clinical Haryana to the summit clash

HAZARE TROPHY

Dhruva Prasad
RAJKOT

The hope that Dinesh Karthik's three sixes offered Tamil Nadu, flailing at 76 for four when he came, was extinguished when he pulled Harshal Patel's bouncer into the hands of square-leg, even though its Vijay Hazare Trophy semi-final against Haryana at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium here on Wednesday formally ended over an hour later.

The skipper's predecessors had fallen to rash shots, leaving a tall order to Karthik and Baba Indrajith. B. Aparajith was strangled down leg-side, C. Hari Nishaanth's drive was caught in the slips and N. Jagadeesan top-edged a sweep after leaving Vijay Shankar stranded.

Indrajith was the anchor but didn't find a foil and eventually fell trying to up the ante. Shahrukh Khan flattered to deceive with three imperious fours while R. Sai Kishore impressed his teammates with hits down the ground, but there was an air of inevitability to their cheers.

Haryana's new-ball pacers hit the in-between lengths with skill, its spinners followed suit and Tamil Nadu's struggle with the bat reared its head again.

Earlier, Haryana's innings blossomed during a 132-run partnership for the second wicket between Yuvraj Singh (65, 79b, 7x4, 1x6) and Himanshu Rana (116 n.o., 118b, 11x4, 2x6) that was bookended by a stuttering start and a collapse.

With Varun Chakravarthy and Sai Kishore triggering a collapse by picking up four wickets for 36 runs, Sumit Kumar (48, 30b, 3x3, 3x3) showed the way by hammering Varun for a six off the first ball he faced.

His knock comprised the majority of the 92 runs Haryana plundered in the last 10 overs.

But Sumit's audacity was built on a platform laid with persistence. T. Natarajan's angles and M. Siddharth's accuracy meant Haryana laboured to 26 for one in nine overs.

When Tamil Nadu decided to strangle Haryana by bowling spin from both ends, Yuvraj played the ball late while Rana picked the over-pitched deliveries to reach his fifty off 58 balls.

Varun erred on the fuller side initially and later overcompensated by bowling short, and Yuvraj punished him for consecutive fours to reach his half-century off 68 balls.

Sai Kishore was the pick of the bowlers and snapped Rahul Tewatia's stunning string of scores in the tournament. However, his team failed to end Haryana's winning streak.

The scores: Haryana 293/7 in 50 overs (Yuvraj Singh 65, Himanshu Rana 116 n.o., Sumit Kumar 48; T. Natarajan 3/79) beat Tamil Nadu 230 in 47.1 overs (B. Indrajith 64, Anshul Kamboj 4/30).

Class apart: Rana's hundred proved to be decisive. VIJAY SONEJI

Crivellaro, Murray make BFC pay the penalty

On the double: Jordan fired home CFC's second after Crivellaro, third from left, netted the first. R. RAGU

ISL-10

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
CHENNAI

Chennaiyin FC blanked Bengaluru FC 2-0 in their Southern Derby in the Indian Super League at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Wednesday.

Rafael Crivellaro and Jordan Murray found the target through penalties at the beginning of each half.

Owen Coyle's men are now sixth with 12 points in 10 matches. BFC, taking the field for the first time under interim coach Renedy Singh, is on a seven-match winless run and stands ninth with seven points from 10 outings.

A handball from BFC defender Namgyal Bhutia inside the box was spotted by the referee and Crivellaro made no mistake.

The Brazilian midfielder sent in a powerful left-footer that BFC goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu couldn't save even though he dived the right way.

BFC may have felt unlucky when it was not awarded a penalty in the 14th minute (Ankit Mukherjee handball).

The rest of the half saw CFC dominate proceedings and Gurpreet being called into action multiple times. If not for the BFC goalkeeper, the host would have scored a few more.

After the break, Crivellaro showcased his magic again, weaving past a number of BFC defenders inside the box. He was successful in drawing a foul from Harsh Patre. Murray slotted home with ease.

The result: Chennaiyin FC 2 (Crivellaro pen-6, Murray pen-50) bt Bengaluru FC 0.

INBRIEF

Sri Lanka appoints new cricket selectors

Sri Lanka's cricket Board appointed new selectors on Wednesday, a day after its recently sacked members were reinstated. The local Board named former international Upul Tharanga as the head of a five-member selection committee for a period of two years. The first task for selectors will be to pick a squad for a six-match white-ball series against Zimbabwe next month. Former cricketers Ajantha Mendis, Indika de Saram, Tharanga Paranavitana and Dilruwan Perera are the other selectors.

Javier Tebas re-elected president of La Liga

The outspoken president of La Liga, Javier Tebas, has been re-elected to his position as head of Spanish football's two top divisions, the league said on Tuesday. Tebas, 61, had resigned in November in order to seek a fourth term and was the only candidate. He assumed the presidency of La Liga for the first time in April 2013 and was re-elected in 2016 and 2019.

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs Pakistan: 1st Test, day 1, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.50 a.m.

India Women vs England Women: Only Test, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.

Vijay Hazare Trophy: Sports 18-1 Khel & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 p.m.

TPL: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4 p.m. onwards

ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m.

South Africa vs India: 3rd T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8.30 p.m.

West Indies vs England: 2nd T20I, FanCode, 11 p.m.

Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11.15 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

NBA: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6 a.m. (Friday)

Paes and Vijay Amritraj inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame

The former makes it in the player category, while the latter has been recognised in the contributor category for his multi-faceted role in the game

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Olympic medallist and multiple Grand Slam champion Leander Paes, along with two-time Davis Cup finalist Vijay Amritraj, has made it into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

The first two Indians to get the honour, Leander makes it in the player category and Vijay in the contributor category for his multi-faceted role in the game. The induction ceremony is scheduled to be held in Newport, Rhode Island, on July 20, 2024.

Leander has won eight Grand Slam doubles titles and 10 mixed doubles titles. He is only one of three men in tennis history to complete a career Grand Slam in both doubles and mixed doubles.

Leander had spent a total of 462 weeks in the top 10 of world doubles, including 37 weeks as No. 1. He also competed in a record seven Olympics on the trot from Barcelona (1992) to Rio de Janeiro (2016).

Immense contribution

Apart from his immense contribution as a player and administrator in promoting the game in the country, Vijay has also fascinated the tennis fraternity around the world as a television commentator, especially during Wimbledon.

He has also served as the Messenger of Peace for United Nations in 2001.

Since 2006, Vijay Amritraj Foundation has provided education and basic needs for women and children in the Indian community.

The third person to be inducted would be Richard Evans, a tennis journalist who has reported on more than 200 Grand Slams and other tournaments. He has written 23 books.

Shining lights: Leander and Vijay have been the beacons of Indian tennis for decades. FILE PHOTO

It's Amee vs Anupama in final

CUE SPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Defending champion Amee Kamani (Madhya Pradesh) brushed aside last year's runner-up Keerthana Pandian (Karnakata) 3-0 in the women's 15-Red snooker semifinals of the 90th National billiards and snooker championships, at the Nehru indoor stadium, here on Wednesday.

Amee will face Tamil Nadu's Anupama Ramachandran, who beat Suniti Damani (West Bengal) 3-0, in the summit clash.

Anupama is eyeing her first senior National title after finishing in the top-8 in both billiards and snooker last year.

Challenger and champion: Anupama and Amee will vie for the honours in the 15-Red snooker event. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results: 15-Red snooker (women): Semifinals:
Anupama Ramachandran (TN) bt Suniti Damani (WB) 3-0 (70-30, 72-23, 72-13).
Amee Kamani (MP) bt Keerthana Pandian (Kar) 3-0 (63-43, 64-19, 82-34).

Quarterfinals: Amee Kamani bt Arantxa Sanchis (Mah) 3-1; Keerthana Pandian bt R. Umadevi (Kar) 3-2.

Suniti Damani bt R.T. Mohita (TN) 3-2; Anupama Ramachandran bt Vidya Pillai (Kar) 3-2.

Pranav betters own mark to win men's F51 club throw gold

PARA GAMES

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Asian Games gold medallist Pranav Soorma bettered his own mark to win gold in the men's F51 category club throw as athletics events concluded on day four of the inaugural Khelo India Para Games on Wednesday.

Soorma threw to a distance of 33.54 metres at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, more than three metres than his effort in Hangzhou for a new Asian record, bettering Dharambir's 31.09m.

The first-ever Radiant Differently Abled Sports Awards 2022-23 will be held on December 22-23 will see differently-abled athletes awarded across 18 categories, including six for the support ecosystem and staff. A total of 250 nominations have been received. The event will see around 110 leading differently-abled athletes in attendance.

The results: Athletics: Men: F51 Club Throw: Pranav Soorma (33.54m), Ram Ratan Singh (25.43m), Alexander M (25.28m).
Shooting: Men: 10m Air Rifle SH2: Vijay Singh Kuntal (618.3), Satya Janaradhana Sridhar Rayala (607.5), Dalbir Singh (604.3); **SH1:** Swaroop Unhalkar (243.8), Deepak Saini (242.9), Ishank Ahuja.
Women: 10m Air Rifle SH1: Mona Agarwal (619.7), Simran Sharma (606.5), Aakansha (604.6); **10m Air Pistol SH1:** Rubina Francis (233.1), Sumedha Pathak (229.2), Bhakti Sharma (207.8)
Powerlifting: 61kg: Seema Rani (88kg), Zainab Khatoon (80 kg), M. Nathiya (72kg); **59kg:** Gadadhar Sahu (140 kg), Joby Mathew (137 kg), Gulfam Ahmed (134kg); **55kg:** Suman Devi (87kg), Raj Kumari (70kg), Gomathi (66kg).

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